



Thursday, October 25, 2018

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Boss warns A&E could be hit at worst time of year

HOSPITAL STAFF SHORTAGE FEARS

Report by Richard Guttridge

RUSSELLS Hall Hospital could be left facing a staffing crisis this winter after its accident & emergency unit experienced its busiest night on record.

The Dudley hospital is likely to lose more staff than it takes on over the coming months, according to a top director at the trust running the hospital, which will increase pressure on the crisis-hit emergency unit.

During winter months the number of patients using A&E dramatically increase.

The hospital is currently drafting up an urgent plan to try to deal with serious concerns raised by health watchdog, the Care Quality Commission, including sepsis management.

The neighbouring Royal Wolverhampton Trust has been brought in to help improve the situation.

The gloomy warnings of staff shortages this winter follow the exit of chief nurse Siobhan Jordan last week, which chiefs have denied is linked to a whistleblowing probe.

Dudley Group NHS Trust non-executive director Julian Atkins aired concerns over staffing at a recent board meeting and warned Russells Hall could face 'challenges'.

Predictions

It was also revealed Russells Hall experienced its busiest night on record during September when a total of 310 people arrived at the emergency department.

A report from the meeting said: "Mr Atkins confirmed that predictions show that the trust will lose more staff than it will recruit over the next six months and this will provide a further challenge to the trust over winter."

Health chiefs said the trust, which runs the hospital, must improve retention of staff and persuade workers from leaving.

The report continued: "The director of HR (human resources) stated that the organisation has to improve its retention of staff."

Plans were also being developed to improve the exit interview process and for staff engagement initiatives.

● Sepsis concern – page 5

BLACK COUNTRY FLAG ON TOP OF THE WORLD



Former Mayor of Dudley Steve Waltho, right, and sister's partner Martin Morris hold up the Black Country flag

A FORMER mayor of Dudley has travelled to Everest Base Camp – half way up the world's tallest mountain – to raise money for charity and has proudly flown the Black Country flag.

Councillor Steve Waltho jetted off from Dudley to the Himalayas to hike to Everest Base Camp, at 17,600ft above sea level. He embarked on the mission to raise funds and awareness for Mary Stevens Hospice, at

Stourbridge, which serves the Black Country.

The 63-year-old recently completed his mission and raised the Black Country flag. Posting on his Facebook page he said it was 'mission accomplished'. "At 6.45am GMT, my sister's partner Martin Morris and I stood proudly at 17,600ft above sea level at base camp at Everest," he wrote. "I won't underestimate the magnitude of this achievement of two ordinary guys at ages 63 and Martin 55."

He added that both had suffered stomach problems and altitude issues but good teamwork had seen them through.

"We stood proudly holding the Black Country Flag then the Mary Stevens Hospice banner. Been a bit overwhelmed by the kind caring comments on Facebook and the generosity of people and the Givepenny Everest Climb 2018 site is still open." To donate visit www.givepenny.com/everest-climb-2018

DEVELOPMENT

Campaign starts to protect beauty spot

THOUSANDS of people have joined a new online group launched to save Saltwells Nature Reserve from development

More than an acre of land used by families and dog walkers will disappear if developers get permission to build nine four and five-bedroom homes on the former site of Saltwells House in Saltwells Nature Reserve.

Angry locals have started a campaign to try to stop the homes plan and have recently set up a Facebook group called Save Saltwells Nature Reserve, which already has around 4,000 members.

ACCIDENT

Cyclist is killed in lorry collision

A CYCLIST from Brierley Hill has died following a collision with a lorry near Kidderminster.

A man, in his 60s, was killed and another cyclist, from Hagley, is being treated in hospital for his injuries after the collision near to the junction of the A449 and Manor Lane near Hartlebury at 11am on Monday.

A 48-year-old man from Halesowen has been arrested on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving.

POLICE

No suspicions over body found in canal

POLICE say there are no suspicious circumstances following the discovery of a woman's body in the canal in Dudley.

The grim discovery was made at 8.30am on Friday in Dudley No 2 Canal in the section that runs near Northfield Road in Netherton.

Police say that the woman was aged in her 70s and the coroner has been informed. Police did not release her name to the media.

The area had been cordoned off last week by officers.

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Towering £1m ambition for beacon



Sedgley Beacon - viewpoint

A BID for nearly £1.5 million of lottery funding to restore a green space and landmark tower to its former glory has moved a step forward.

Dudley Council is seeking £1.43m from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for the ambitious project to breathe new life into the Sedgley Beacon with its Grade II-listed tower.

A beacon is believed to have been kept to burn from the top of the open space as long ago as the 17th century and the site offers some of the most spectacular views in the Black Country.

But over the years the land and its 50ft high tower have deteriorated and it is no longer possible to climb to the top. The bottom eight feet of its internal stone staircase is missing and it has been fenced off due to crumbling brickwork. Rubble and rubbish is also strewn around the base.

The council, working with the Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country, submitted a bid in August to embark on a 'development phase' for the project. It is hoped a decision will be made in January.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "As a council we are committed to preserving and protecting the historic assets in our borough.

"People used to say you could see as far as Bristol on a clear day from the top of the Beacon, and it would be a real attraction for the community if we could get it back to how it was. Hopefully we will be successful with the lottery bid, and we can get cracking."

The bid will be discussed by councillors today (Thursday).

Increasing menace of organised crime gangs

A REPORT into crime in Dudley has said there is evidence organised crime gangs are active 'throughout the borough' involved in forced labour, drug dealing and child sexual exploitation.

The shocking report will be presented to senior councillors at the borough council's cabinet meeting today (Thursday), as part of a draft youth justice plan for the 2018-2019 year.

The report outlines key findings which show that - although the borough remains the safest in the West Midlands - the total recorded crime from October 2016 to September 2017 increased by 15 per cent (2,643 offences) compared to the previous year.

Council officers also report that data from the past five years shows a worryingly increasing trend which is unlikely to stop in the near future.

It also states that eight wards out of 20 account for more than half (52 per cent) of recorded crime in the borough; while a quarter of repeat offenders were responsible for over a half of all detected crime.

Protect

Council officers warn: "There are strong links to suggest organised crime groups are active throughout the borough involved in forced labour, drug dealing, and child sexual exploitation.

"It is clear that in order to protect the most vulnerable in our community, we need to better understand the circumstances under which these young people are becoming victims of crime."

The plan is part of a submission to the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales which funds local authority youth offending teams to carry out intervention work with youngsters.

Dudley Council receives £360,362 in grants to help run its service, which aims to prevent youngsters committing crime.

Stan and Ollie stars on the red carpet



Way Out West end - John C Reilly, left, and Steve Coogan attended the Stan and Ollie premiere in London

ACTORS Steve Coogan and John C Reilly both wore kilts on the red carpet to celebrate their roles in the new film Stan & Ollie, which was partly filmed at the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley.

The world premiere for the film, based on the lives of comedy duo Laurel and Hardy in their later years when they toured Britain, was at the closing night gala for the BFI London Film Festival.

The event, held in Leicester Square, saw members of the cast

take to the red carpet alongside the film's director, Jon S Baird, himself a Scot.

Asked about Coogan and Reilly's choice to wear kilts on the red carpet, the director, originally from Aberdeen, first joked it was in his honour, then said: "There's a scene where they go to Scotland and wear these oversized kilts but they thought it would be a nice little touch as well and, as you can see, a good photo opportunity"

Alan Partridge star Coogan and

Reilly, who play Laurel and Hardy respectively, also donned matching bowling hats in the style of the double act, who performed at the Dudley Hippodrome as part of stage tours in 1947 and '52.

Mr Baird said: "Everybody knew what Laurel and Hardy were like on screen and what their personas were like. They're very different off screen."

Stan & Ollies goes on general release across the UK in January.

Half term fun sessions for children at leisure centres

CHILDREN can take part in lots of activities at Dudley Council-run leisure centres this half term.

The borough's three centres are hosting a busy week of fun between October 27 and November 4.

On October 30 and November 1, there will be two full days of junior Activezone activities at Dudley Leisure, suitable for youngsters aged eight to 12-years-old. Running between 9am and 4pm, activities will include multi-skills, football, basketball, rounders, crafts and swimming. It costs £20 per day.

At Halesowen Leisure Centre, juniors can take advantage of the £7 for seven days offer to receive unlimited access between 9am and 5pm every day.

A fun float pool session, suitable for all ages, will be running in both pools at Halesowen on October 30 and November 1. They will take place between 1.30pm and 3pm and costs £4.30 for adults and £2.80 for under 16s.

Juniors under the age of 16 can also receive a 50 per cent discount off the full adult price on a no booking advance basis for court sports. Equipment is provided.

Youngsters can take part in fun and games at Stourbridge's Crystal Leisure Centre too. The swimming pool, complete with slides, waves, bubble seat and rapids is open between 9am and 6pm Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm Saturdays and 9am to 6pm on Sundays. There will also be a bondi-beat water disco with a live DJ on Friday, November 2, between 3.30pm and 6pm.

Inclusive Activezone sessions, for children with learning or physical disabilities, will take place on November 1. Sessions run between 10am and 12pm for five to eight-year-olds, and from 1pm to 4pm for eight to 16-year-olds. Book by calling 07970 259921.

There will also be Halloween crafts for children aged between five and 11, on October 30 from 11am. £5 per child.

NHS car park fees bringing in £11m

HOSPITAL trusts in the West Midlands made more than £11 million from parking charges and fines last year, figures have revealed.

Figures released by the NHS show the five trusts covering the Black Country and Staffordshire raked in nearly £3.4m from staff and a further £8.2m from patients and visitors in 2017-18.

The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust's parking fees brought in £1.5m.

A spokeswoman for NHS Improvement said income generated from the charges was used to pay the costs of providing parking, while excess funds were put into clinical services.

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Hotel aiming to bounce back after kitchen fire

A HOTEL owner who is reeling after a devastating kitchen fire says he is worried the damage could affect bookings in the run-up to Christmas.

Mohammed Zaman, who owns The Himley Country Hotel and Restaurant, said the fire had come at a 'hard time' in the run-up to the festive season.

Firefighters were at the scene of the Dudley hotel last Wednesday after the blaze broke out just before 5.30pm in the kitchen.

A spokesman for West Midlands Fire Service described it as a 'severe' kitchen blaze that they believed to have been started by a fryer.

Mr Zaman said: "Obviously it's a very hard time as Christmas is coming up and we have people wanting to book in parties and dinners. But, touch wood, we have our temporary kitchen coming in this week."

The hotel remains open to guests but the kitchen has been out of use since Wednesday.

Mr Zaman confirmed a temporary kitchen has been ordered and guests should be able to order food later this week.

The fire was out by about 7pm last Wednesday and there were no injuries.

The popular venue offers festive parties for groups as well as Christmas Day lunch, Boxing day lunch, and New Year's Eve nights.

Strictly Dany duo fly to the top

DUDLEY-BASED professional dancer Amy Dowden and her celebrity partner Danny John-Jules achieved the first ten of this Strictly Come Dancing series on Saturday night.

Team Dany, as they have become known on social media, dazzled the judges including special guest Alfonso Ribeiro with their action-packed jive routine, earning a score of ten from judge Dame Darcey Bussell.

The overall score of their aviator themed routine to Flip Flop and Fly came to 37, placing them at the top of the scoreboard on week five and getting the comment "That was extraordinary" from Dame Darcey. Amy, who runs a dance school in Dudley, and Red Dwarf star Danny will be taking part in Saturday's Halloween special.

Festive fair time

A CHRISTMAS fair is being held at the Beacon Centre in Sedgley on November 15. The event at the centre in Wolverhampton Road East runs from 4pm to 7pm with admission £1 and free for children under 10.

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Spy car leads to 444 parking fines

NEARLY 450 parents have been slapped with fines after being caught by a spy car introduced just over a year ago to crack down on poor parking outside schools in Dudley borough.

Parents are still being caught by the vehicle, which was introduced in September 2017, with more than £15,000 paid in fines in its first year.

The Dudley Council camera vehicle has been on the streets looking for evidence of bad parking outside schools with parents facing fines of up to £70. Parents have paid out £15,358 in fines to date with 444 penalty charges dished out between September 1 2017 and October 12, 2018.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, the council's cabinet member for environmental services, said the

vehicles was being used because the council took the safety of children around schools 'extremely seriously'.

The vehicle was introduced by Dudley Council at the start of the school term in September 2017 in a bid to improve children's safety. The move had followed complaints about problem parking outside school gates.

The camera only starts rolling when a vehicle has driven over yellow zig-zag warning lines. Once the car leaves the area the camera stops rolling. Council officers are then tasked with looking through the video footage.

Councillor Ahmed said: "The zig-zag lines are there to protect our children, so they can see and

be seen when going to and from school. Fortunately most drivers do park responsibly near the school gates, but there are still some who continue to park illegally, putting the lives of children at risk. The council will continue to use the CCTV vehicle on streets around schools to ensure our children stay safe."

Most fines involved Church Road, Coseley, outside Christ Church Primary, followed by Hillcrest Road, in Dudley, near to St Joseph's Primary. Fines were also handed out for poor parking near Netherton Primary School, Castle High School and Blowers Green Primary School.

The scheme is self-financing with any surplus from fines ring-fenced for road safety measures.

'Social problems' taking police time, says Blair

BRITAIN'S broken criminal justice system meant that police were having to deal with 'social problems' rather than fighting crime, said former Prime Minister Tony Blair during a visit to Dudley.

The former Labour leader met with officers at West Midlands Police Station in Brierley Hill to discuss the region's crime epidemic during Friday's visit at the invitation of Dudley North MP Ian Austin. He also spoke with students at Dudley College's Advance Campus.

He was guest at a round table event chaired by Chief Superintendent Sally Bournier, that also featured Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson, neighbourhood officers and Police Community Support Officers.

Following the meeting, Mr Blair – who had pledged to be 'tough on crime and on the causes of crime' when he was in power – said: "I'm really interested – and concerned – in the fact that crime is back now as a really important issue."

"Crime is growing, violent crime particularly the way these organised gangs are operating."

"The officers are doing a fantastic job, but the truth is their numbers have been cut pretty savagely."

Knives

"And it's not just their resources that have been cut but the basic social infrastructure to deal with some of the problems that people have, so a lot of the problems for police out on the street at the moment are problems they really shouldn't be dealing with. They are almost dealing with social issues when they have got to be fighting crime."

"Gang members of a young age carrying knives and weapons. This is a sort of criminality that, unless you have the resources, is very hard for police to deal with, even though they are doing the best they possibly can do in exceptionally difficult circumstances."

Talking to students at Dudley College, Mr Blair said it was vital to invest in foreign aid to curb terrorism and to halt the mass migration that had resulted from the rise of terror groups.

When PM Mr Blair introduced the policy of spending 0.7 per cent of gross domestic product on foreign aid, which now sees more than £13 billion going abroad.



Mr Blair and Ian Austin with Chief Superintendent Sally Bournier and Commissioner David Jamieson



Former PM Tony Blair meets Dudley students



Dudley College chief Lowell Williams with Mr Blair

NEWS IN BRIEF

Call for more on lollipop patrols

COUNCIL bosses have issued a call for friendly people to join their school crossing patrol team.

Dudley Council is looking to recruit in 12 locations across the borough, including Dudley, Stourbridge, Halesowen, Quarry Bank, Kingswinford and Netherton.

All the posts are permanent and start early next year. Shifts vary on different sites, posts are normally between six and seven-and-a-half hours a wee during the morning and evening school runs. DBS checks required. Posts are term-time only and the hourly rates around £8.55 per hour. Call (01384) 815401.

Merry Hill named UK's eighth best

A REPORT has ranked into Merry Hill as the UK's eighth best shopping centre, ahead of Birmingham's Bullring in GlobalData's new Top 50 UK Shopping Centres Report 2018.

The report is the first of its kind to take into account the requirements of both tenants and shoppers. Westfield London tops the table, Westfield Stratford City, London, is in second place with Bluewater, Kent, third.

Merry Hill owner intu has four in the top 10 with Trafford Centre, Manchester, fourth, Lakeside, Essex, fifth and Metrocentre, Gateshead, sixth.

MP's concern over cancer test delays

DUDLEY North MP Ian Austin has called on the Government to recruit more NHS staff to tackle the long waiting times for tests that could diagnose bowel cancer.

The Labour MP is backing Bowel Cancer UK's End the Capacity Crisis campaign, which aims to improve diagnosis of the UK's second biggest cancer killer.

Mr Austin said: "I am backing this campaign to ensure that everyone referred for this life-saving test is seen in a timely manner."

Boats moored up for trust's open weekend

DOZENS of boats moored along the canal for Stourbridge Navigation Trust's annual open weekend. The event was held at the Bonded Warehouse and along the canal towpath.

The trust's 35th open weekend also included classic vehicles, traction engines, fairground organs and a craft fair. The trust's Heide Barratt said: "We were very pleased with how the event went, the weather certainly helps."

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Fingerprinting the suspects 'on move'

POLICE officers will be able to fingerprint suspects 'on the move' after hundreds of new mobile fingerprint devices were brought in.

West Midlands Police has invested in 657 of the machines, which enable people's details to be checked on the streets.

Bosses say the move will save the force time and money, while also enabling officers to spend more time 'fighting crime'.

The force has spent £262,000 on the devices, which will initially be used by force response teams, operations officers and neighbourhood policing teams.

Medics want more social care funding

PATIENTS will be left 'stranded' in hospitals and GP waiting rooms unless more money is found for social care, leading medics have warned.

In a letter to the Chancellor ahead of the budget, leading British health-care groups warned that more money needs to be ploughed into social care and public health services.

Without investment, "consequent demand on NHS services will not be manageable", according to the letter. The authors said the funding gap in social care services, estimated to be £3.5 billion by 2025 for adult care services in England alone, needs to be plugged as "a matter of urgency".

Children witness animal cruelty

MORE than a fifth of schoolchildren in the West Midlands have witnessed animal cruelty and neglect on social media, the RSPCA has revealed.

The charity said it was seeing nearly 5,000 such incidents reported each year. More than 400 have been reported in the West Midlands in 2016, 2017 and the first six months of 2018, and 238 in Staffordshire.

In response, the charity is launching its biggest ever education and prevention programme aimed at children.

Lower interest rates help first-time buyers

FIRST-TIME buyers are driving the housing market with the number of mortgages handed out to this sector reaching its highest levels in over a year in August, lenders have reported.

There were 35,500 new first-time buyer mortgages completed in August, two per cent more than in the same month a year earlier, trade association UK Finance said. Experts put this down to low interest rates

Moonwalk master can make you feel good

THE brains behind the iconic Moonwalk and the 'lean' made famous by King of Pop Michael Jackson is set to reveal his industry secrets to a Black Country audience.

Performer Jeffrey Daniel, who was MTV's first street dance choreographer and a member of hit-making group Shalamar, visit Halesowen after linking-up with Next Level Dance Academy.

The 63-year-old sold 25 million records with soul group Shalamar, whose hits included A Night to Remember, There It Is, and I Can Make You Feel Good. But he also earns a place in pop history as the man who taught Jackson the Moonwalk and invented the extreme lean for his Smooth Criminal music video.

Charlie Jones, co-owner of the Manor Lane dance school, said: "It's

brilliant for our dance school and the surrounding area. A lot of the parents are excited about him coming. I think they're big fans. It's going to be inspiring. The children are all interested in dance and some of them want to have a career in the industry."

Daniel, who co-choreographed the Smooth Criminal and Bad videos, will host two 90-minute dance master classes and a 30-minute question and

answer session when he drops by at Haden Hill Leisure Centre on December 2.

It will be the second time dancers at the school, which launched four years ago, have been treated to a special visit from dance heroes after Ashley Banjo, leader of dance troupe Diversity, visited for a one-off workshop.

Tickets are £30, email nextleveldance@sky.com for details.

Jobless figures on the increase in borough

Report by John Corser

THE number of people claiming unemployment-related benefits in Dudley has shot up 28 per cent in the last year.

It comes despite a drop in unemployment across the West Midlands as a whole.

The claimants total in Dudley stood at 7,570 last month – 3.9 per cent of the working population – and up by 25 from August. Over the year the total has grown by 1,640.

Among the 18 to 24-year-old age group claimants in the borough have risen 295 – 23 per cent – to 1,600.

The rise has been partly put down to the controversial Universal Credit system being rolled out in the borough. It replaces six benefits with one monthly payment but has come in for heavy criticism for leaving claimants worse off.

Unemployment across the whole West Midlands region fell by 2,000 to 139,000 in the three months to August, part of a nationwide jobless fall of 47,000 to 1.36 million. Over the year the unemployment level is down 10,000.

Recruitment

Gerry Lyng, partnership manager for the Department for Work and Pensions in the Black Country, said that recruitment for major construction projects being led by the West Midlands Combined Authority was likely to see more employment and an increased demand for training.

JobCentre Plus is also working with Auctus Management Group to recruit for staff for the Midland Metro.

Claimant numbers in South Staffordshire, including Kinver and Himley, saw a rise of 15 to 970.

Meanwhile the number of women at work in the West Midlands is at a near record high of 1.29 million.

Look forward to early Christmas CHAOS



Salli Gage, Richard Cope, Adam Compton and Liz Compton who are in CHAOS' version of White Christmas

THEATRE performers are in the festive spirit for their latest show and are already dreaming of a white Christmas! Members of CHAOS – Cradley Heath Amateur Operatic Society – will be staging their version of Irving Berlin's classic musical White Christmas next month.

The show at Stourbridge Town Hall will be staged from November 13 to 17. As well as the famous title song White Christmas also features the popular songs Sisters, Blue Skies, Count Your Blessings (Instead of Sheep) and How Deep is the Ocean?

The production is based on the classic 1954 movie which stars Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary

Clooney, and Vera-Ellen. It is a romantic comedy about showbiz pals planning a Christmas entertainment.

CHAOS spokesman Paul Murdock said: "We promise an enjoyable evening's entertainment with a festive family feeling of award-winning standards from the long-established amateur operatic society in the whole of the Black Country and the performing talents of the area. Let's make CHAOS' White Christmas just like the ones we used to know."

Tickets costing £14 and £17 can be bought from the box office on 0121 5857380 or any member of the society. Performances include a Saturday matinee.

Murder rate at a 10-year high across the region

THE murder rate in the West Midlands is at its highest in 10 years as latest figures show violent crime continues to soar.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) said there were 79 murders in the wider region in the year to June 2018 – up 30 per cent from the previous year.

West Midlands Police (WMP) dealt with 42 killings and there were 10 murders in the area covered by Staffordshire Police.

The figures also show the full extent of the region's knife crime epidemic, which Wolverhampton South East MP Pat McFadden branded 'among the biggest crises facing the country'.

Over the period there were 4,327 incidents involving blades, including 35 murders, 59 cases of attempted murder, 209 threats to kill and 1,907 serious assaults.

Overall, total recorded crime has rocketed by seven per cent in the West Midlands, with a 10 per cent spike in the WMP area and a five per cent rise in Staffordshire.

WMP dealt with a 21 per cent increase in violent crime, a 16 per cent rise in weapons possession, a 23 per cent increase in sexual offences and a 22 per cent spike in robbery.

In Staffordshire there were huge rises in robbery and weapons possession offences, which showed respective spikes of 30 per cent and 29 per cent.

The figures come as WMP Chief Constable Dave Thompson revealed the force may have to get rid of up to 500 officers due to Government changes in pension contributions.

● Pension bill – page 14

Slam Dunk drops out of Midlands

POPULAR alternative music festival Slam Dunk will not return to the Midlands next year.

The event has been hosted at Birmingham NEC since 2016, following a move from Wolverhampton Civic Hall where it had been held since 2013.

In a statement on the festival's Facebook page, organisers state: "Going forward, we have two large outdoor sites where we have much more flexibility to deliver what you want. This means we are unable to run a third day, so Slam Dunk Festival Midlands will not be happening in 2019".

To cater for Midlands fans, the festival has teamed up with travel company Big Green Coach Company to offer transportation to the Leeds and Hatfield concerts from Birmingham.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Spooky goings on for shoppers

CHILDREN and grown-ups are invited to take part in a special trick-or-treat trail at a shopping centre this Halloween.

Five 'spook stations' will appear inside the intu Merry Hill centre between noon and 5pm on Wednesday, October 31. Each will see families receive sweet treats from creepy characters, including witches, wizards and phantoms. A Day of the Dead (Dia de los Muertos), parade will also come to life at 4pm, where guests are encouraged to dress up. The event is available to new and existing members of intu's family club. Visit customer services on the lower mall to sign up.

Tom rocking at top exam result

A STUDENT is celebrating after receiving the second highest grade in the entire country for his geology AS Level. Tom Parker, aged 18, is studying A Levels in geology, biology and chemistry at Halesowen College.

The college received a letter from the exam board, OCR, to say Tom had achieved the second highest mark nationally.

Tom, who lives in Kingswinford and was a former pupil at Summerhill School, said: "I wasn't sure how the exam had gone and I didn't think I had done as well as I had."

Bike worth £5,500 stolen in burglary

A MOUNTAIN bike worth £5,500 has been stolen following a spate of burglaries in the Black Country.

Garages in the Withymoor area of Brierley Hill were targeted between Wednesday and Thursday of last week and an orange Alpine mountain bike was stolen.

A spokesperson for West Midlands Police said: "It is quite distinctive so if you see it or have any information please call us on 101 quoting ref number 20DY/239061P/18."

Alternatively, call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

Ghoulish fun at pub in aid of hospice funds

A DUDLEY town centre real ale pub is hosting a day-long Halloween fundraising party to raise money for a Black Country charity.

There will be live music, a disco and ghoulish games at The Malt Shovel in Tower Street, Dudley, on Saturday from noon onwards.

Regulars are being invited to come along in spooky fancy dress to join in the fun in aid of Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Hospice.

It's knife or your life, police tell teenagers

YOUNGSTERS in the West Midlands will be shown 'the story of a stabbing' as part of a police campaign to warn against the dangers of knife crime.

Police say the 'hard-hitting' advert will air on download sites alongside grime and drill music tracks. It will feature real paramedics and police officers and will show a dramatisation of a stabbing and its aftermath.

The clip is part of the force's #lifeorknife campaign, which has been brought in following a spate of fatal stabbings across the region, including two recently in the Black Country.

The campaign will also see police officers and PCSOs talking to pupils about knife crime, a Facebook video advising parents how to talk to their children about the issue, and a 'myth-busting' social media campaign exposing the reality of knife crime and its consequences. It is aimed at 14-16 year olds.

Superintendent Ian Parnell, knife crime lead for West Midlands Police, said: "Young people report that they feel the need to carry a knife for a number of reasons, one being fear. We all have a responsibility to talk to children about those fears and why they might feel driven to carry a knife."

"The message is a simple one. Life or knife – the choice is yours and there's always a choice, even when young people don't feel they have one."

Building society moves in centre

COVENTRY Building Society's branch in the Merry Hill shopping centre has moved to a new location near to Marks & Spencer.

Society members and representatives of Age UK, which has received almost £2,300 from the Merry Hill branch team's fundraising efforts since December 2017, were there to celebrate the move and the branch's new design.

Branch manager Curt Price said: "Our investment in Merry Hill shows our long-term commitment to the area and our branch network. Whilst many banks have been closing branches, we believe they provide an essential service for our members. Our aim is to give members and our branch team the best possible environment."

Festive favourite

THE East Coseley Big Local group has chosen a festive favourite for its next free community cinema screening. The 1994 version of Miracle on 34th Street is at Darkhouse Baptist Church on December 4 at 2pm.

Network to help Parkinson's patients

AN initiative pioneered in Dudley to help keep Parkinson's patients out of hospital has led to the creation of a national network, which has been launched this month.

Janine Barnes, neurology specialist pharmacist with the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, has set up a network to train pharmacists across the country.

The newly-formed Parkinson's Disease Specialist Pharmacy Network (PDSPN) will train pharmacists to help people manage their condition through medication.

The network held its first steering committee meeting in Birmingham last week to develop an educational programme for hundreds of pharmacists

who have already expressed an interest in further training.

Ms Barnes was the first neurology specialist pharmacist in the UK and was named Clinical Pharmacist of the Year in 2012. After speaking at a conference in London, she was approached by pharmacists interested in finding out more about Parkinson's.

Parkinson's is thought to affect around one in 500 people in the UK. It causes tremors, stiffness in the muscles and slow movement. It can also lead to depression, memory problems and insomnia.

Ms Barnes said: "We are seeing more people with Parkinson's due to an ageing population, better diagnosis and more people coming forward."

"Parkinson's medication is often very complex so pharmacists are the ideal profession to help these patients."

"By being a point of contact, we as pharmacists can use our skills to monitor their medication and possible interactions with medications prescribed for their other health conditions, to keep them healthy and out of hospital."

Dudley is also leading the way in the care of Parkinson's patients with the neurology pathway of the Dudley Rehabilitation Service which includes Parkinson's disease nurses. Ms Barnes added: "People with the condition have the support of this team which takes them out of the hospital system, freeing up nurses' and consultants' time."

Worry over lack of sepsis awareness at hospital

STAFF at a beleaguered Black Country hospital were 'frustrated' they had been ordered to focus on a potentially deadly infection, inspectors found.

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) said that some staff at the emergency department in Russells Hall Hospital – including senior doctors and nurses – 'did not understand sepsis'.

Some staff were unable to describe the signs of the infection when asked by inspectors.

Without prompt treatment, sepsis can lead to multiple organ failure and death.

CQC staff observed a patient who had signs of infection waiting for 11 hours before being put on antibiotics.

Previous inspections had highlighted concerns over whether staff were identifying patients with the condition effectively.

Enforcement

As a result of the latest unannounced inspection, the CQC said it was forced to take further enforcement action against Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust.

Its latest inspection report states: "Some patients with suspected sepsis were still not being identified or managed appropriately."

"Staff continued to be frustrated at the focus on sepsis and did not fully engage with the need to assess for sepsis."

Inspectors visited the trust on August 8 and 9 to view its urgent and emergency care services at Russells Hall.

Following the inspection, the CQC has placed an 'urgent condition' on the trust's registration.

Diane Wake, chief executive of the trust, said: "We are committed to making further improvements for patients, and supporting all our staff to provide the best possible care."

Last month she revealed that staff in A&E at Dudley had been re-trained in how to spot signs of sepsis and how to manage patients with the condition, including the introduction of a dedicated 'sepsis trolley'.

Pupils' harvest to help people in need



Robert Street Primary School pupils with headteacher Dawn Hunt and senior pastor David Bell

PUPILS at a Dudley primary school have used their harvest festival to collect and donate food to the Black Country Food Bank.

Youngsters from Robert Street Primary School got together a van-load of food at their recent harvest festival service.

Dave Bell, senior pastor at St Paul's Church in Gornal, said:

"The church is a distribution centre for the Black Country Food Bank. From the estimates of what I took down there was a good 300 to 400 kilos collected."

"The food bank really struggled during the summer. The supplies ended up running low and as part of the harvest festival the school did a collection of food. It was

amazing. The response we got from the school was fantastic. Pupils brought so much food in that they struggled to find places to keep it."

Mr Bell added: "We see the people in need coming to collect the food and it's not always people you would expect. Sometimes people in jobs struggle."

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



When fast still meant top marks in design

FIFTEEN years ago this week, crowds gathered around Heathrow Airport, their noses pressed against the perimeter wire. As the flight from New York to London touched the runway, there was barely a dry eye in the audience.

The plane in question was Concorde, and the journey the world's last supersonic flight. Incredibly, next year also marks the 50th anniversary since it first took to the air. Even today, Concorde is a remarkable feat of engineering. Faster than the speed of sound, it got you from London to New York in about the same time it took to drive to the airport.

And this year also marks 80 years since Mallard broke the world speed record, hitting 126mph near Grantham. Like Concorde, Mallard was remarkable not only for what it achieved, but also for its beauty of design. Look at its sleek, futuristic lines, and contrast them with the shabby old multiple units you find running today's commuter routes.

The 20th century was the age of the artist engineer, visionaries who achieved the impossible and created something beautiful. Whereas today's technology revolves around dreary computers and phone apps, creating a generation of introverted teenagers and putting our high streets out of business.

□ □ □

ON the plus side, advances in robot technology mean we will only need to work a four-day week. At least that's what shadow chancellor John McDonnell says. The other way of looking at it is that, as robots render human labour obsolete, countless jobs will be lost and millions thrown onto the dole. Based on past experience, which do you think is more likely?

□ □ □

AS we look ahead to the festival of Remembrance, I suppose it wouldn't be the same without the usual suspects enjoying their 15 minutes of fame by sounding of a note of rebellion.

But in years gone by, it used to be pretty benign stuff, like CND leader Bruce Kent wearing a white poppy. These days it seems to be much nastier.

Earlier this month Prof Kehinde Andrews of Birmingham City University declared that Winston Churchill was racist. Hardly original, but it was his comments that followed that sent a chill down the spine. He added: "The truth is Hitler was a great military leader, a product of his time, and if they won the war we would be having this discussion now." How is he still in a job?

007 comment and the twitterwaves are buzzing



Jonathan Dimbleby – blames social media for decline of reasoned discussion



Jodie Whittaker – the new Doctor Who uses her brain instead to disarm villains



Piers Morgan – accused over suggestion that he made on Daniel Craig

Oh baby! I just hate all this 'crime' talk

PIERS Morgan was probably guilty of some terrible hate crime this week when he suggested that Daniel Craig carrying his baby in a papoose showed that 007 had been emasculated. In Morgan's book, real men carry kids in their big hairy arms. As night follows day, women took to the twitterwaves to declare that there is nothing so manly as a bloke carrying his baby in a papoose. And there's nothing so embarrassed as a bloke whose woman feels she has to tell the world that he's manly. Some things are better left unsaid.

WHITEHALL is looking at proposals to extend hate crimes to cover the abuse of people based on their age or gender. Bang goes my fan mail.

REMEMBER the row at the National Trust last summer when volunteers were "invited" to wear badges celebrating a gay-pride campaign? Some felt uncomfortable at the idea and either stayed away or were relegated to back-room jobs. For an organisation usually associated with genteel English gardens and tea on the lawn, the NT were behaving in a nasty, bullying way. When the story hit the papers and NT members started cancelling their subscriptions, the Trust backed down. So what will happen at the BBC to staff who choose not to wear "LGBT ally" badges which have been designed to show support to LGBT colleagues? We are watching.

INCIDENTALLY, the term "jerk" may be a hate crime against jerks. Guilty as charged.

GENDER-stereotype alert. Doctor Who

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



(BBC1) now in a female incarnation (Jodie Whittaker) made the feminist point that men are violent clots who instinctively reach for guns and bullets. The new Doctor uses her brain instead and disarms the robot-snipers by creating an electro-magnetic field. In the interest of balance, I should point out that the Doctor's famous sonic screwdriver has been adapted for female use. It now carries the instruction: "Lefty loosey, righty tighty."

NEW research suggests that fish which are caught and then released are unable to feed properly because the hook damages their lip. Reports referred to anglers "throwing the fish back." This is an offensive term. Genuine anglers never throw a fish anywhere. They handle their catch gently, if only because they want it to be fighting fit for the next weekend. I have never understood coarse fishing but they do seem to respect their prey. And so, too, do we game fishers. The difference is that we knock the trout or salmon on the head and have it for tea. Which is, of course, the fish's fault for being delicious.

JONATHAN Dimbleby blames the anti-social side of social media for the decline of reasoned discussion on TV and radio, declaring: "Debate generally has deteriorated in almost direct pro-

portion to the amount of stuff that is uttered. We get more and more words and fewer and fewer thoughts." Memo to JD: Get a grip. You and your brother David chair two of the BBC's flagship discussion shows, you with Any Questions (R4) and David with Question Time (BBC1). If the quality of national debate has fallen, you Brothers Dimbleby must take some of the blame.

FOR a kick-off, they should halt the growing trend of "straw man" arguments when someone misquotes an earlier speaker to refute a claim that was never made in the first place. It happened recently on Question Time when a man in the audience asserted that "the UK is one of the least racist societies across Europe." He was promptly denounced by a Muslim woman as "a white man saying that there's no racism in this country." He had said no such thing but Dimbleby didn't point it out and the audience erupted with mob-like applause.

WE hacks get the straw-man treatment all the time. Not long ago, on the subject of privatising the railways, an emailer accused me: "Bet you supported it at the time, Mr Rhodes, so an apology is in order." As far as I can recall I never wrote about rail privatisation, let alone supported it (although I was resolutely against water privatisation). No matter. In today's anti-social media world, you can be pilloried not only for what you said but for what some jerk thinks you might have said.

DOES anybody have a backstop to prevent the endless use of the word "backstop"?

TALKING POINT



Horror of horrors this is all down to us

ONCE a year it is legitimate, in fact encouraged, for children to don terrifying masks and demand money with menaces from people sitting in their own homes.

As darkness falls, a knock comes at the door as, what is often a pack of ghoulish, little creatures, sneer 'trick or treat'. The 'victim' must then pay up with a treat of some kind or face retribution – an egging being the most popular trick.

It sounds almost barbarian doesn't it? But this acceptable form of robbery is sold to us as harmless Halloween fun.

It is easy to blame yet more of the American culture sweeping over the Atlantic. Not to mention the commercial infiltration which sees our high streets filled with Halloween costumes, banners, treats etc. But in fact, Britain is the birthplace of Halloween with the tradition having begun as the Festival of Samhain and part of the ancient Celtic religion.

The Celts believed that at the end of summer, the barrier between our world and the spirit world got really thin and ghouls could wander the Earth. So the festival was essentially a huge party to scare away the spirits.

Trick or treating actually goes back, in some form, to the 16th century in Britain. So though we may grumble about the expense, the repeated knocks at the door on October 31, and the requirement on parents to escort their little muggers on trick-or-treat escapades, we only have ourselves to blame.

But actually this British tradition can actually be fun. I always enjoyed the costume drama of dressing up my children. I liked to decorate the house and have a cauldron full of sweets ready. However, there is a 'but' – and that is the worry it poses for the elderly and vulnerable.

How terrifying must it be to look out of your window and see someone in one of those horrid 'Scream' masks for example.

Parents and children must be sensible when trawling the streets looking for 'trick or treat' targets. Decorated homes clearly invite callers but if they look like an elderly person may live there, perhaps a bungalow, don't be a nuisance.

If the door is not answered promptly walk away. Try to stay close to home where you are more familiar with neighbours.

While the children may be having a scream, remember to others they are frightening young terrors demanding money with menaces.

May everyone have the Halloween they hope for and only the spirits be frightened away.

DIANE DAVIES

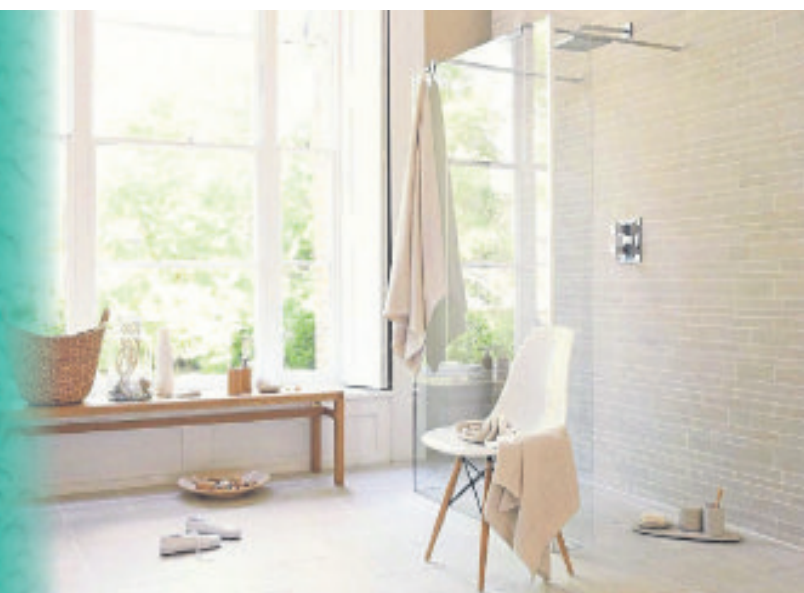
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The Brexit elite aim to reduce workers' rights and conditions in a poorer Britain

BREXITERS want a deal that lets them undermine employment rights.

Rees-Mogg says he cannot "support all the employment rights that come from Europe"; for Liam Fox it's "unsustainable to believe that workplace rights should remain untouchable"; Johnson adds "the weight of employment regulation is now backbreaking".

Secondly, these Brexiters even doubt the economic benefits of Brexit.

Liam Fox told the Times "Brexit...

is not a guarantee that everything is going to be rosy on the other side". Rees-Mogg admitted it may be 50 years before we see the benefits of Brexit. By then most of us will be long gone – and not because we can move abroad like wealthy Brexiters!

Rees-Mogg's firm is allegedly moving some operations to Ireland and John Redwood has apparently advised his moneyed clients to move funds out of the UK. So much for patriotism.

Workers and others committed to Britain did not vote for the country to become poorer, have their employment rights reduced and working conditions made worse. Yet this is where these Brexiters are leading us.

It's nothing like what they promised. It's time we took back control. We need a final say with a people's vote on the final deal when it comes.

HUGH WILLIAMS
Stourbridge

Life should mean life for ISIS

THE news that a number of ISIS supporters will soon be released from prison is bad enough, but the fact that the tax-payer will have to pay huge sums of money for surveillance adds insult to injury.

Why should we pay such amounts for the liberty of people who seek to destroy our liberty?

Terrorism destroys families and circles of friends for ever. Those who are lost have no liberty.

I am not in favour of capital punishment, but I do believe that the punishment should fit the crime.

Therefore anyone convicted of being involved in terrorism at any level should suffer a punishment in keeping with the suffering of their victims and their families.

They should face life imprisonment without access to communications with their friends and families until they die.

MICHAEL CLIFF
Wall Heath

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Fracking could ease pressure on energy

THE UK imports about 59 per cent of its gas supply. Much comes from Norway but we do import Russian gas. It seems sensible to me to have a strongly controlled fracking industry in this country to provide cover in emergencies until we can provide much more from wind farms and solar panels, etc.

We imported Russian gas earlier in the year following an unusual cold spell and we need to do everything possible to reduce our levels of imports which often have to be paid in US dollars and Euros.

Fracking should not become the norm, but it will ease the pressure during periods of unusual demand.

ROGER WATTS
Walsall

Strictly, it takes two to stray

STRICTLY stars Seann and Katya – what a fuss about their snog in public, allegedly outside a pub. It's certainly not possible to apportion blame. It takes two.

First of all, it has to be said that there is nothing 'strictly' about Strictly Come Dancing, it is simply an entertainment show, the more glitzy and sexy the better, with the females in the scantiest clothes they can find.

The Cha Cha Cha is announced or the Charleston but what follows is nothing like a Cha Cha Cha or the Charleston, except for a remotely choreographed improvised movement occasionally.

Practising these close-contact clinches and lifts, etc, for hours on end every week is sure to lead to other things by their very nature for some (but by no means all). 'Come Dancing' of yesteryear was worthy of the prefix 'Strictly'.

PAULINE POOLE
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Meet a RITA made to help stroke patients



Cyril Barratt with stroke co-ordinator Bal Lelli and Simon Terry, Arvinder Hothi, stroke lead nurse Donna Salt and Paul Bough

PATIENTS recovering from a stroke will receive state-of-the-art therapy in Dudley thanks to a donation of more than £9,000 from former workers at a Wolverhampton tyre factory.

Members of the Goodyear Workers Benevolent Fund were invited to meet staff on the stroke unit at Russells Hall Hospital to see how their dona-

tion has made improvements to the unit's therapy room.

The group saw a demonstration of Reminiscence Interactive Therapy and Activities (RITA) software – a form of cognitive therapy which helps patients with dementia and has also proved valuable to support the recovery of stroke patients.

Bal Lelli, stroke co-ordinator for the unit, said: "We understand providing the right environment alongside meaningful activities really makes a

difference in enhancing our patients' experience. RITA is much more than just a computer or piece of software – RITA helps brighten our patients' day.

"It can encourage conversation and interaction between patients, their family and staff. We are so grateful for this grant which allows us to have a dedicated RITA on our stroke unit."

The grant also enabled the purchase of two dementia-friendly privacy screens, which make the space less clinical and can help relax patients.

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Betting giant to repay dogs home money gambled by boss

GAMBLING giant Paddy Power Betfair has been fined more than £2 million after allowing former Birmingham Dogs Home boss Simon Price to gamble money stolen from the charity.

The business has also agreed to repay to the dogs home stolen money gambled away by addict Mr Price on its sites to the dogs home. Mr Price gambled away £640,000 of the £894,753 he stole.

It is not known how much was gambled with Paddy Power Betfair but the charity will receive a slice of the firm's £500,000 divestment. Birmingham Dogs Home runs Sunnyside Centre in Coven, South Staffordshire, as well as its base in Solihull.

Armed gang block car to rob occupants

A GANG of thugs armed with a hammer and knives blocked off a car and stole jewellery and clothes from the victims inside.

A Peugeot, believed to have four people inside, was blocked in by a dark coloured VW Scirocco in Hurst Road, Coseley. Coats, jewellery and phones were stolen in a terrifying attack that left some of the group injured.

The robbery took place in Hurst Road, at Hurst Hill between Coseley and Woodcross. Police believe the group in the Peugeot, who were wearing green bandanas, had been to McDonald's, in Kent Street, Lower Gornal, a short time before launching the attack at around 10pm on October 10.

Anyone with information can call police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

The Gambling Commission fined the firm £2.2m after discovering 'significant' amounts of stolen money had been gambled with Paddy Power's online exchange Betfair after it failed to carry out proper money laundering checks. An investigation by the watchdog also found Paddy Power did not protect three customers showing signs of gambling addiction.

Jailed

The commission's inquiry centred on five customers in 2016, including two who were allowed to gamble stolen money - one of whom was disgraced former Birmingham Dogs Home chief executive Mr Price.

He and his wife Alayna admitted cheating the charity out of £894,754 over four years from 2012. Mr Price was jailed for five years at the end of 2017, while Mrs Price was given a two-year suspended term.

Paddy Power Betfair will pay £1.7 million to charity Gamble Aware and £498,508 to be shared by victims and impacted parties, including the dogs home, as well as £50,000 for the commission's investigation costs.

Mike tells of life rocking at the Robin



Lots of famous names feature in anecdotes in the autobiography from Robin club boss Mike Hamblett

THE boss of a rock club has put pen to paper to reflect on a remarkable 26 years at the helm of a venue dubbed The Marquee Of The Midlands.

Mike Hamblett, owner of the Robin 2, in Bilston, has written his autobiography, which doubles as a history of one of the most famous rock clubs in Britain.

It reflects on his upbringing in Cradley Heath and also provides memories of such stars as Bill Wyman from The

Rolling Stones, Dudley comic-singer-actor Lenny Henry, the four members of Slade, Hollywood star Steven Seagal and other big names like Ben E King, Roy Wood, Billy Ocean, Martha Reeves, 10CC and more.

Mike said: "The idea to do a book came about when we reached our 25th anniversary.

"We started out over at the Robin Hood, next to Merry Hill, but had to move out of there when they wanted to

knock it down and build a car park. So we found The Robin 2 in Bilston and created a bigger venue with a hotel and restaurant."

He added that the club had survived tough times and during the recession it almost went bump. However, thanks to loyal support from local rock, blues adn soul fans, and great bands, it had pulled through.

Mike describe writing Keepin' Music Live as 'a real labour of love'.

Motorist jailed for causing a head-on crash

A DRIVER was 'just a whisker' under the legal alcohol limit when he made a devastating mistake that has left another motorist with life changing injuries.

Mitchell Cox, from Oldbury, thought he was on a motorway slip-road rather than an ordinary carriageway when he ploughed head-on into an oncoming car.

Victim Ian Stoddart could have been burned alive if people had not rushed to his aid and dragged him out as the two cars burst into flames.

As it was, 53-year-old Mr Stoddart had multiple fractures to both legs and his collarbone, 22 rib fractures, collapsed lungs and ruptures to his liver and a kidney.

Cox, age 24, of Knotsall Lane was jailed for 16 months after pleading guilty at Warwick Crown Court to causing serious injury by dangerous driving.

Prosecutor Daniel Wright said that at 6.20pm on October 28 last year Cox, having visited a friend in Tamworth, headed to junction 10 of the M42 in Warwickshire.

Lights

Having stopped at traffic lights on the roundabout, Cox had planned to join the M42 to get to the M6 but rather than joining the motorway, he was on Trinity Road, an ordinary single carriageway.

Believing he was on the slip-road, Cox headed round a sweeping right-hand bend into the path of Mr Stoddart, who on his way to his home in Tamworth.

When the police and an ambulance arrived Cox, who had a collapsed lung and a sprained wrist, was given a breath test which gave a reading of 34 - just one below the legal limit for driving.

Ian Speed, defending, said it was a 'tragic accident' and engineer Cox was of previous good character.

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Parkinson's UK planning regular coffee mornings

A CHARITY is inviting people affected by Parkinson's to a coffee morning in Stourbridge on the first Tuesday of every month, starting November 6.

The event, run by Parkinson's UK, will be held at the Tesco Café in the Crown Centre from 10.30am to noon.

David Swindells, Parkinson's UK area development manager, said: "These coffee mornings are an opportunity for people with Parkinson's, their families and carers to come together to share their experiences and local information, making sure that no-one has to face Parkinson's alone."

To find out more about local activities contact David on dswindells@parkinsons.org.uk and more information about the condition is available on the parkinsons.org.uk website.

Parkinson's is a progressive neurological condition. It causes problems in the brain that get worse over time. The number of people diagnosed with Parkinson's in the UK is about 145,000. That's around one adult in every 350 adults.

Rum business toasts success after winning £30k investment

A CRAFT rum business is toasting its success after winning £30,000 investment from the Black Country's Richardson business family.

The announcement came at the Trafalgar business leaders dinner backed by the Richardsons at Hagley Hall last week.

Burning Barn smoked rum was launched by Katherine Jenner three years ago, inspired by a severe fire at the family farm at Hampton-in-Arden, near Solihull. Although fire-repairs saved their house, the barn was utterly destroyed.

From the ashes Katherine was inspired to launch her own brand of fiery smoked rum and was one of three businesses shortlisted for the Richardson investment after a pitch



Katherine Jenner's smoked rum has investment from the Richardson Foundation

competition at Birmingham's Venturefest event last month.

Rum was the traditional drink of the Royal Navy down the ages and

The Richardson's Oldbury-based property and investment business was keen to support an emerging and innovative young business from the region.

Chris O' Connor, investment director of RCL Partners, speaking on behalf of the Richardson Foundation, said: "We want to support early stage businesses. All three finalists are really promising but we felt that the investment would have the greatest benefit for Burning Barn." A delighted Katherine said: "This means we can expand and take on more people."

The other finalists were Birmingham sisters Reena and Geeta Salhan, who launched the Green Sisters range of allergen-free Indian snacks, and Coventry's Jeff Zhang who's Beacon Helmet uses laser technology to improve safety.

this project would have won the approval of British naval hero Lord Nelson, whose victory at the Battle of Trafalgar was being celebrated.

Brakes are put on new Rowley Regis cemetery

COUNCILLORS have put the brakes on controversial plans to build a huge new cemetery on open green land in Rowley Regis.

A decision over the site opposite the Powke Lane Crematorium has been deferred to a later date after councillors expressed concerns at Sandwell Council's full council meeting last week.

Several councillors said they would vote against it, which was greeted with cheers and applause in the public gallery.

Councillor Paul Moore withdrew the report from the meeting agenda in light of the discussions and the issue will be looked at again.

Sandwell Council's planning committee had previously given the application the green light but it had come before the full council as it was a departure from the approved Local Development Plan.

Sandwell Council chiefs have been desperately searching for extra burial land as the current cemetery has approximately four years until it is full.

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Whole lotta hope for city's charity art auction



Artist Louise Cobbold with her painting of rock music legend and Wolves fan Robert Plant, which is up for auction

A CHARITY art auction will feature work by the Wolves match day programme artist.

A number of artworks will be up for grabs at the auction in Birmingham on November 20 and there's a 'Whole Lotta Love' for a painting going under the hammer of Led Zeppelin legend and celebrity Wolves fan Robert Plant.

The piece depicting the iconic rock star was created by Louise Cobbold, the artist who has previously raised money for Cure Leukaemia through her paintings of Wolves players.

These same paintings, that feature captain Conor Coady and manager Nuno Espirito Santo, among others, have been used for the match day programmes for Wolves' home fixtures this season.

More than 50 artworks have been donated by artists across the UK for the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists (RBSA) charity auction. The event is being run by Bonhams and is in collaboration with Deutsche Bank Birmingham and Cure Leukaemia and is being held at Deutsche Bank's Brindleyplace headquarters.

Tickets to the auction cost £10 and will go to Cure Leukaemia, with proceeds from the sales to the RBSA.

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500 officers could go due to force's £20m pensions bill

WEST Midlands Police could be forced to shed nearly 500 officers after the Treasury hit it with a pensions bill of more than £20 million.

Chief Constable Dave Thompson warns that an 'utterly extraordinary' increase in force pensions contributions ordered by the Government could lead to a drastic reduction in officer numbers.

Mr Thompson has called for an emergency budget to address the proposal, which he says will cost the force £8.6m next year and a further £14m the year after.

Man dumped 26 tons of waste illegally

A MAN has been sentenced to 220 hours of unpaid work and pay more than £5,000 over charges relating to the illegal dumping of waste in the Black Country.

Adam David Orsler, from Solihull, appeared before Birmingham Magistrates Court, for illegally depositing 26 tonnes of general household waste on disused land in Smethwick on July 10, 2016.

He was sentenced to a 12 month community order and he is required to complete 220 hours of unpaid work.

He is also required to pay compensation to the land owner of £2,974, in addition to £2,000 prosecution costs and victim surcharge of £85.

When Environment Agency officers interviewed Mr Orsler, he admitted that he had been paid £650 to collect the waste from a site in Dudley but had received no formal paperwork to carry out the job.

He has accused ministers of 'getting their maths wrong' and warned that the changes would have 'a significant impact' on the level of policing.

It comes as West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson said cuts to the tune of £175m had been made to the force since 2010.

Crimewave

He says that the West Midlands needs £85m extra funding and 500 more officers to tackle the region's crimewave

Addressing the pensions decision at a meeting this week, Mr Thompson said: "This is utterly extraordinary. I don't think I have ever seen anything dropped on us at such short notice.

"There is a significant impact. There is a reduction of approaching 500 officers. Clearly our intention is not to do that, but lets be realistic, that is a huge amount of money we are talking about."

He said that police chiefs contacted the Treasury to raise 'serious concerns' but said that in terms of a response 'the silence had been deafening'. He added: "It is quite simply unreasonable what has been proposed."

Popular TV comic to top Cornbow Hall bill



Deadpan and dead good puns – Milton Jones has a Halesowen gig

A POPULAR television comic is to perform in Halesowen next month.

One-liner specialist Milton Jones, who is a regular on radio and TV, including Mock The Week, will be top of the bill at the Cornbow Hall on November 24.

It will be the second Comedy At The Cornbow event following a hugely successful sell-out first show headlined by Canadian Tom Stace.

Jones will be supported by Paul Thorne and Gavin Webster, which is hosted by MC and Dudley comic Wayne Beese.

Doors open at 7pm on the night and tickets start at £18.50.

Meanwhile, TV comics Lost Voice Guy and Angelos Epithemiou will take centre stage when a Stourbridge pub hosts its second four-day comedy festival next month. They are among 13 professional acts who will perform as part of Fitz Fest 2, which will be held in the marquee at Katie Fitzgerald's in Wollaston from November 8 to 11.

Britain's Got Talent winner Lost Voice Guy is headlining the opening night, which has already sold out. Angelos, who appeared on Shooting Stars, will headline on November 10.

Tez Ilyas, who has appeared on Mock The Week and Man Like Mobeen, headlines November 9 and closing the festival on November 11 will be Paul Tonkinson, ex-host of The Big Breakfast. Tickets cost £15 each, plus fees. Visit www.ticketsource.co.uk/funnybeeseness for tickets.

Celebrating by building for the future

DUDLEY Building Society, based at Brierley Hill, is celebrating a strong performance so far this year with record lending to new house buyers.

Half way through its 160th year, the Dudley already racked up pre-tax profits of £912,000.

At the same time the society's total assets have grown to a record £419 million, resulting in the Dudley group moving up in the building society league tables.

Figures covering the period from the beginning of April to the end of September show the society has also achieved record growth in its lending and an increase in deposits from its retail savers.

Mortgage growth in the first half of the year has outpaced the rest of the UK market at 8.3 per cent as gross lending grew to a record £38m.

The healthy figures underline the success of the Dudley's transformation from a local building society to a national operator. Around 70 per cent of its mortgage borrowers now come from outside the West Midlands, although most of its savers are still based close to its five branches across the Black Country.

Popular

Chief executive Jeremy Wood said: "We are delighted to be announcing such strong half year results. I believe building societies are more popular than ever."

"We have been very clear about the way in which we have structured and delivered the growth in our business on behalf of our members. We have delivered on the ambition we set ourselves and returned profit levels that are essential to ensure the society's continued investment."

"It is a very competitive market, so to be doing what we are doing and to be achieving the results we are achieving is really quite outstanding. And it is providing jobs in the Black Country."

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Speeding motorist crashed into a parked police vehicle

A SPEEDING motorist, who careered into a police car when travelling at more than doubling the limit in a stolen car, has been spared an immediate jail sentence.

Luke McGuire drove at up to 70mph in a 30 limit while pursuing police had to reach 89mph when trying to keep up with him, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The chase started after the unemployed 25-year-old ignored an order by officers to stop and accelerated away along Clapgate Lane in Halesowen. He carried on through Carters Lane and Spies Lane before crashing into the back of a parked police car that had nothing to do with the pursuit.

The police officers of that vehicle had been supervising a car being taken away on a recovery truck shortly before 11pm on September 5, explained Mr Edward Soulsby, prosecuting.

McGuire, who had neither a driving licence nor any insurance, fled from the wreckage but was caught after being chased on foot. The crash caused more than £5,000 worth of damage.

McGuire had bought the Hyundai earlier that same day and suspected it had been stolen because he paid just £400 for the vehicle, said Miss Charmaine Robinson, defending.

She continued: "This was a disgraceful piece of driving. He knew he did not have a driving licence or insurance and panicked when he saw the police."

McGuire from Lye Avenue, Woodgate, admitted dangerous driving and having no insurance or a driving licence. He was given a 14-month prison sentence suspended for two years. He was banned from driving for 18 months, ordered to complete rehabilitation courses, must carry out 200 hours unpaid work and pay £340 costs.

A PERVERT from Cradley Heath who preyed on females using public transport has been jailed. Michael Cosco, 63, of Halesowen Road, has been put behind bars for two years and nine months following the incidents.

On March 13 an 18-year-old woman contacted police after getting off a Birmingham to Sutton Coldfield service, saying she felt 'violated' after a man rubbed himself against her shoulder. Police were called again on March 15, by the father of a 13-year-old girl, who said his daughter had been touched inappropriately on her journey home from school and they had seen the man responsible at Aston station, where police then arrested Cosco.

He admitted one charge of sexual assault, following a trial at Wolverhampton Crown Court, was convicted of the sexual assault against the 13-year-old with the judge ordering other charges lie on record.

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Anger as grass verge is churned up



The damage to the grass verge in Sedgley, which has been described as 'thoughtless' and 'disgraceful'

A COUNCILLOR has slammed vandals who have caused 'thoughtless' and 'disgraceful' damage to a grass verge in a Black Country high street.

Councillor Shaun Keasey said he was appalled that the area of grass, near High Street in Sedgley has been

churned up by a vehicle of some description. Tyre tracks are running across it.

He said: "I believe this is an act of vandalism and an insult to the people of Sedgley. We care about our town and I'm sure I speak for the majority

of local people when I say this kind of action deserves punishment.

The councillor continued: "The damage is very recent and I would urge anyone who may have seen something - or knows something - to contact local police on 101."

Driver is jailed after passengers seriously injured

AN OLDBURY man has been jailed for a high-speed crash which left his two passengers with life-changing injuries.

Just days before Christmas last year, officers spotted a Vauxhall Corsa driven by 21-year-old Jamie Chatwin speeding on Clent Road in the early hours of the morning.

Officers made several attempts to halt the car, however Chatwin failed to stop and continued driving erratically, weaving in and out of lanes.

Officers abandoned the pursuit due to the risk to other road users. Minutes later the Corsa crashed into a tree and then the central reservation.

Two female passengers suffered serious injuries.

Chatwin, of Oldacre Road, was sentenced to 26 months in jail and disqualified from driving for four years and one month for dangerous driving, causing serious injury and driving without a licence and insurance.

He was handed the jail term at Birmingham Crown Court on October 12, after the incident happened on December 23 last year.

Sergeant Adrian Brown, said: "Chatwin was showing off and driving dangerously, and in doing so has seriously injured his friends. Families are and will suffer the consequences of Chatwin's actions for many years to come."

Hall is alive with the Sound of Music

THE Black Country will be alive with the Sound of Music next year during a special sing-along celebration of the hit Julie Andrews musical.

Tickets have gone on sale at £15 for the Sing-along Sound of Music screening at Dudley Town Hall on Friday, March 15, 2019. See boroughhalls.co.uk or call (01884) 812812.

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16 Smartphone app will brief police

Dudley Chronicle Thursday, October 25, 2018

A NEW piece of technology which it is claimed will save 550,000 police officer hours a year has been rolled out for West Midlands Police.

A total of 4,000 frontline officers are now equipped with smartphones which provide access to a range of police systems on-the-go.

Statistics from the force reveal more than 10,000 checks are made each day using the new app, which links to the force's 'Corvus' task briefing system.

Officers can now 'click and collect' a wanted suspect by tapping on their profile to instantly alert colleagues across the force they are en-route to make arrest attempts on the Corvus app.

Chief Superintendent Pete Henrick, who is leading the project, said: "The app is part of our WMP2020 mobility programme aimed at modernising the workforce and giving frontline officers the kit they need to keep them out on the streets and not having to continually return to the police station.

Misleading

"It's essentially briefing on the move. Officers can download documents, view images and information on suspects, police contact records, bail or curfew conditions and warning markers.

"All this information is now at their fingertips means they can run on-the-spot checks on crime suspects to ensure they're not trying to provide false details or give officers misleading information.

"I would estimate the rollout of this new technology is saving each officer at least an hour a day – and that equates to about 550,000 police officer hours a year. That's time they can now spend on patrols, making enquiries and searching for crime suspects."

The devices use 'geofencing' technology which means officers receive automated voice prompts to alert them whenever they enter an area frequented by a wanted person.

Struggling Debenhams likely to axe one in three of its stores

Supporters' busy weekend for Zac



Zac and his family were special guests at Molineux for the Wolves match against Watford on Saturday

IT was a busy weekend for four-year-old Zac Oliver who has captured the hearts of the nation.

The youngster from Shropshire hit the headlines as his family fought to raise the £500,000 needed to fund special cancer treatment in America.

Since then, supporters, including X Factor music mogul Simon Cowell and an anonymous donor who handed over a huge £100,000, have come together to help smash that target.

On Saturday, Zac was a special guest at Molineux as Wolves took on Watford, which saw the home team beaten 2-0. Wolves legend Steve Bull was on hand to greet the youngster and his family.

Therapy

His parents, Hannah and Mark, are making preparations to take Zac to Philadelphia where he can undergo CAR-T therapy unavailable on the

NHS for his rare form of leukaemia, called near-haploid. They are continuing with fundraising to cover the costs of support treatment after Zac's therapy.

On Sunday a convoy of lorries travelled from Zac's home town of Broseley to Telford via Bridgnorth to raise further funds. Zac and his parents rode in one of the lorries, to Telford International Centre. More than 100 trucks took part, sounding their horns.

STRUGGLING department store Debenhams is preparing a radical overhaul of its 200-year-old business that could see it close some of its stores.

The company, which announces annual results today (Thursday), is understood to have identified around a third of its 166 stores for possible closure.

Debenhams has stores in at Brierley Hill's Merry Hill centre, the Bullring in Birmingham, Kidderminster, Lichfield and opened in Wolverhampton's Mander Centre last year.

It is also understood to be preparing a significant write-down of its goodwill – the way companies account for their inherent value – that would result in a one-off charge of several hundred millions of pounds.

The department store, which has posted a string of profit warnings this year, is seeking to make around £100 million in savings. Scrapping the dividend will save the retailer about £30m.

Reducing

Managers are also weighing proposals to save £70m by reducing capital expenditure. The extent of Debenhams' store closures will depend on negotiations with landlords.

It is thought the chain could shrink to around 100 outlets over coming years. The restructuring, set to be outlined alongside Debenhams' results, follows the arrival of Rachel Osborne as finance director last month. She is likely to emphasise that any write-down relates to non-cash items only and is not a reflection of recent overall performance.

Debenhams is battling with expensive leases signed in more buoyant retail times. Debenhams chief executive Sergio Bucher said: "After our people, property is our biggest cost and, right now, it is our biggest challenge."

Car stolen after gang steals key

A GANG of three burglars broke into a house in Sedgley before stealing the keys for a car and escaping from the scene.

The offenders snapped a front door lock and broke into the house in Churchill Gardens.

They then stole the keys to a VW Polo which was parked on the road outside and escaped in it.

The car key burglary took place at around 2.15am on Monday, October 1.

The stolen car was later recovered in Gospel End, later that day.

West Midlands Police have sent the car off for forensic analysis and are appealing to trace the man wearing gloves pictured.

Anyone with information can call West Midlands Police on 101, quoting incident number 20DY/224679M/18. Alternatively, contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111 or at crimestoppers-uk.org

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SKIPTON & GRASSINGTON Christmas Markets

Departing Friday 7 Dec

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FOLKESTONE & FRANCE Weekend

Departing Friday 25 Jan

This weekend break includes a trip across the Channel to the pretty seaside town of Boulogne-sur-Mer, with its domed cathedral and medieval quarter. There's also the opportunity to visit Canterbury, one of the most important cathedral cities in the country.

Your break includes

- ✓ Return coach travel and ferry crossings from Halesowen
- ✓ 3 nights at the Grand Burstin Hotel, Folkestone with dinner & breakfast
- ✓ 2 for 1 bar (6pm-9pm) on selected drinks
- ✓ Entertainment every night
- ✓ Excursion to Boulogne-sur-Mer

Optional excursion to Canterbury (£7pp)

4 Days by Coach only £109.99

Single supplement £37.50



Heart and 'sole' show



For ladies, gentlemen and those who haven't made their mind up – a scene from Kinky Boots at the Grand Theatre this week

Kinky Boots, Wolverhampton Grand BIG and bootiful with lots of heart and sole, this West End musical strode into the Grand with plenty of glitz, glamour and confident swagger.

Certainly, the Wolverhampton audience were on their feet to give this hit show a standing ovation and more than two hours of entertainment.

It is based on a film that was itself based on a true story about a failing Northampton shoe factory that was rescued when it discovered a niche market creating sexy women's boots for men.

This gleefully outrageous show featuring a troupe of dazzling female impersonators – the Angels – is turbo-driven by new songs written by 80s pop icon Cyndia Lauper and a sharp-tongued script from actor and writer

Harvey Fierstein. It revolves around the fabulous Lola, the flamboyant and audacious high-heeled drag queen persona of mild-mannered Simon from Clacton. Lola is persuaded to turn designer by other lead character Charlie, who has been forced by circumstance to take over the family business.

Both, it transpires, are living in their father's shadows and together they find acceptance.

On Wednesday Lola was played by Kayi Ushe rather than the anticipated star Callum Francis but the standby rose to the occasion with a five-star performance, in which he was equally adept at power ballads and disco numbers.

Joe Harper-Jackson was also compelling as Charlie with strong support from Helen Ternent as his disap-

pointed fiancée and an excellent comic turn from Paula Lane as lovesick worker Lauren. She squeezed every ounce of humour from her big number The History of Wrong Guys.

There was a technical hitch on the night which delayed the act one closing number by ten minutes. But it was worth the wait for Everybody Say Yeah, in which the factory conveyor belt was turned into a catwalk/travelator on which the cast show some very fancy footwork.

The supporting cast also includes Staffordshire's former X Factor finalist Niki Evans as factory worker Trish, showing she has acting skills to go with that soulful voice.

Kinky Boots is at the Grand until Saturday.

Leon Burakowski

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2018'S SELL OUT SHOW NOW BOOKING FOR 2019

The Tina Turner Musical hit the West End in 2018 with sell out performances throughout the year. We recommend booking early for 2019 to avoid disappointment.

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AT YOUR LEISURE

Best seller brought to life at Rep

Alice Sebold's global best seller, *The Lovely Bones*, is being brought to life on stage for the first time at Birmingham Rep this month.

Adapted by award-winning writer Bryony Lavery and directed by Melly Still, *The Lovely Bones* opens on Tuesday and runs until Saturday, November 10.

Sebold's tale captured hearts after it was published in 2002. An unforgettable examination of life after loss, it's main protagonist Susie Salmon is a murdered teenager, who watches over her family and friends as they try to put their lives back together. She also watches her killer.

American writer Sebold will be visiting Birmingham for a special 'In Conversation' at The Rep on Thursday, November 1.

Playwright Lavery said: "I've found that the huge story is very, very happy to change its medium and reveal its treasures on The Rep's main stage. I am a most fortunate playwright."

In the 10-strong cast, Susie will be played by Charlotte Beaumont, who played Chloe Latimer in TV series *Broadchurch*.

Writer Lavery's previous work includes the Tony Award-nominated *Frozen*, which premiered at The Rep in 1998 and was revived in the West End this year. Director Still's credits include the acclaimed *Olivier* and Tony Award-nominated production of *Coram Boy* (National Theatre and Broadway).

For tickets see birmingham-rep.co.uk or call 0121 236 4455.

Mary Stevens Hospice
Pantomime Company



Panto fans have a ball

The Mary Stevens Hospice Pantomime Company will be putting on a fundraising performance of *Cinderella* at Stourbridge Town Hall with guest star Donchez Dacres.

Following the success of their three-show sell-out debut production of *The Wizard of Oz* at Brierley Hill Civic Hall back in January, the company are bringing all the magic of the classic fairy tale to the stage across five performances between November 28 and 30, with some performances already sold out.

After the widely-acclaimed performance of the X-Factor's Wagner as The Wizard in the previous production, the hospice committed to including a celebrity special guest in the cast once again, this time in the form of Donchez. Fresh from finishing third on Britain's Got Talent this year with his catchy Wiggle and Wine song, Wolverhampton-based Donchez has agreed to support the Stourbridge hospice by performing in all five shows, although details of his role are being kept as a surprise.

The 61-year-old AA man captured the hearts of the nation with his song, which prompted

David Walliams to hit the iconic golden buzzer to send him straight through to the semi-final of the nationwide talent competition.

Tickets for the show can be booked online at: www.seaty.co.uk/cinderella and for group, school or company bookings call (01384) 377 778 to speak to the Hospice fundraising team. Or to find out more about the work of the Mary Stevens Hospice, visit www.marystevenshospice.co.uk website. All money raised through the show will be donated directly towards families relying on the care of the Mary Stevens Hospice.

Little Mix gig tickets go on sale

Pop superstars Little Mix have announced the LM5 Tour, a massive UK arena tour for 2019 and will be coming to the Genting Arena (soon to be Resorts World Arena) at Birmingham's NEC in just over a year's time.

The shows on Friday and Saturday, November 8 and 9, 2019, will see Little Mix perform songs from their new album LM5, alongside their greatest hits including *Touch*, *Shout Out to My Ex*, *Black Magic* and *Wings*. Little Mix have firmly established their reputation as one of the most phenomenal live acts around. This summer they toured the UK with the Summer Hits Tour.

Little Mix recently announced that their fifth album, LM5, will be released on November 16. The band have spent the year writing and recording the album with an A-List cast including Ed Sheeran, Jess Glynne, Camille Purcell, MNEK, and Timberland. The girls themselves have described it as 'the album we always wanted to make'. The album's first single *Woman Like Me*, featuring Nicki Minaj, was released last week. The harmony-led, urban, reggae pop smash immediately hit the top spot on iTunes around the world. Since 2011, Little Mix - Perrie Edwards, Jesy Nelson, Leigh-Anne Pinnock and Jade Thirlwall - have sold more than 45 million records worldwide.

Tickets are on general sale from 9am tomorrow (Friday) via www.theticketfactory.com or by calling 0844 33 88 222

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DURHAM

Christmas Market & Beamish

Departing Saturday 1 Dec

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- ✓ Visits to Beamish & Durham Christmas Market

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ANDRÉ RIEU

at the Echo Arena, Liverpool

Departing Friday 14 Dec

Violin master André Rieu has announced a new UK 2018 tour including a date at the Echo Arena in Liverpool! See the 'King of Waltz' perform with his 60-piece Johann Strauss Orchestra where he will play songs from his repertoire alongside Christmas carols.

Your break includes

- ✓ Return coach travel from **Dudley, Halesowen & Stourbridge**
- ✓ Overnight stay at a selected hotel with breakfast
- ✓ Ticket to André Rieu concert at the Echo Arena, Liverpool (upper tier)
- ✓ En-route visit to Manchester Christmas Market

Ticket upgrades available

2 Days by Coach now £189

Single supplement £30



ST NICHOLAS FAYRE

York & Chatsworth House

Departing Saturday 15 Dec

York's festive St Nicholas Fayre boasts over 100 traditional style chalets dotted throughout York's atmospheric streets, selling inspired gifts ideas and stocking fillers. We also visit magnificent Chatsworth House with its beautiful festive decorations.

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- ✓ Return coach travel from **Dudley, Halesowen & Stourbridge**
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The Proclaimers



Brothers still Proclaiming, 31 years on from their debut

The Proclaimers are set to fill Symphony Hall, Birmingham, on Monday as part of an extensive UK tour.

The singing Scottish siblings released their 11th studio album in the summer, which was followed by a series of sold out shows in their homeland.

Twins Craig and Charlie Reid

emerged 31 years ago with their debut album *This Is The Story* and top three single *Letter from America*. But the duo from Auchtermuchty are best known for *I'm Gonna Be (500 Miles)*, which after reaching number 11 in the UK chart in 1988 (number 1 in Australia and New Zealand), was re-recorded with Peter Kay to top the chart for Comic Relief in 2007.

They inspired musical, play and

film *Sunshine on Leith*. The musical is rumoured to be heading to London's West End next year.

The new album includes *Streets Of Edinburgh*, a tribute to the city of their birth, *You Make Me Happy* plus the political and socially aware *Classy* and *Looted*.

Support for The Proclaimers gig in Birmingham comes from Irish singer-songwriter Jack Lukeman.

No Dutch courage needed for Caro at Symphony Hall

She's as polished and classy as it gets.

Following five star reviews and sold out shows, the gorgeous and stylish Caro Emerald is back with a brand new live UK tour for 2018, which includes a concert at Symphony Hall, Birmingham, on Tuesday.

Since the release of her 2010 multi-platinum debut album *Deleted Scenes From The Cutting Room Floor*, the Dutch singer and her producers Grandmono have fashioned their own niche, blending retro jazz with sampling and modern pop, starring Caro's smooth vocals. The result is a unique signature sound to go with a glamorous look that suggests a Hollywood icon of yesteryear.

Her second album *The Shocking Miss Emerald* entered the Official UK Album Chart at No 1 in May 2013, remaining in the chart for an entire year.

"This tour is the best thing ever," she says. "I'm thrilled to be coming back to Birmingham's Symphony Hall. I've been there lots of times so I know the surroundings and the neighbourhood."

"Places like the Symphony Hall and the Royal Albert Hall, which I'm playing for the third time, are out of the ordinary. They are very special."

"The Symphony Hall is a fantastic venue with so much atmosphere and when you play you can feel how special it is. Being there helps to lift my performance."



Caro Emerald – unique

It's been a loff but now I'm off, says Doreen

COMEDY queen of the Black Country Doreen Tipton has said that her latest live tour will be her last and she is promising 'to go out with a bang'.

The feckless, deadpan character, played by actress Gill Jordan, will bid farewell after her Doreen's Big Top tour which calls at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre next Friday, November 2.

The self-professed 'lazy cow', created by Gill and writer David Tristram, has hinted at a mysterious new venture, so maybe we haven't seen the last of her.

"This will be our sixth live show, and we've had a wonderful time doing them," says Gill. "But planning for the live tours starts virtually a year before with the writing process, preparing videos, theming, booking venues, marketing, rehearsing and so on. By the time you finally complete the tour itself you then have to start planning the following year's tour almost immediately. This leaves no time for exploring other projects, new avenues, as you get trapped in a cycle of writing, planning, rehearsing, touring, then writing again. We think the time is right to break the mould and try something different."

Black Eyed Peas to celebrate anniversary

The Black Eyed Peas are back – will.i.am, apl.de.ap and Taboo will line up at Birmingham's O2 Academy on Monday as part of their first headline tour in eight years.

The Black Eyed Peas formed in 1992 in Los Angeles though their roots go back to 1988, when eighth-graders William Adams (will.i.am) and Allan Pineda (apl.de.ap) began rapping and performing together around LA. Later they were joined by Jaime Luis Gomez (Taboo) and singer Fergie, who left the Peas for a solo career.

They enjoyed hits with *Where Is The Love?*, *Shut Up*, *Don't Phunk with My Heart*, *Don't Lie*, *My Humps*, and *Pump It*, among others. The hip hop/pop group have released seven chart-topping studio albums. Meanwhile, will.i.am has won a whole new group of fans as the most enigmatic and humorous of the judges and mentors on TV talent show *The Voice*.

Fans can look forward to a greatest hits selection. The group has also premiered an explosive new single and video entitled *Get It* which looks at social issues such as police brutality and immigration.

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AT YOUR LEISURE

CHOICE



Claudia Winkleman

Strictly Come Dancing - Halloween Special (BBC1, 6.50pm)

For Movie Week, the unsung heroes of Strictly's hair, make-up and wardrobe departments managed to transform Stacey Dooley and Kevin Clifton into a pair of jiving, bright yellow minions and got Graeme Swann to do the Charleston dressed as Spider-Man. So just imagine what they are planning for this year's Halloween special... As ever, Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman will be introducing the couples, while Shirley Ballas, Darcey Bussell, Craig Revel Horwood and Bruno Tonioli will be deciding which dances were a treat, and who should have added a few more tricks to their repertoire.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Classic Mary Berry. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Invictus Games 2018. **2.00** Live International Rugby League. England v New Zealand (Kick-off 2.30pm). **4.30** Final Score. **5.10** BBC News. **5.20** Regional Programme. **5.30** Invictus Games 2018.

6.00 **Pointless Celebrities.** Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present a sci-fi edition of the general knowledge quiz. The teams playing for charity are classic Doctor Who stars Peter Davison and Katy Manning, Blake's 7's Paul Darrow and Michael Keating, Red Dwarf's Hattie Hayridge and Harry Potter's Jessie Cave, and Star Wars actors Kiran Shah and Jimmy Vee.

6.50 **Strictly Come Dancing - Halloween Special.** Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman host a spooky episode of the dance contest, with the remaining 11 pairs competing to impress judges Shirley Ballas, Dame Darcey Bussell, Bruno Tonioli and Craig Revel Horwood and the viewers with their talents.

8.35 **Casualty.** Base works for Ross in his meth lab to pay off his debts. He collects 16-year-old Harry to work with them, and watches on as Ross physically asserts his authority over the teenager. Duffy wakes up in a hotel room having slept with Bill. Full of guilt, she sends him away and gets ready to leave. On her way out, she hears a call for help and reluctantly treats Naima, who was found passed out in the hotel swimming pool.

9.25 **Killing Eve.** Carolyn brings unwelcome news and a change of priorities, but Eve is closer than she has ever been to Villanelle, and is finally going to meet Anna.

10.10 **BBC News.** Weather.

10.30 **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Liverpool v Cardiff City at Anfield and Leicester City v West Ham United at the King Power Stadium.

11.50 **The NFL Show.** Mark Chapman is joined by former players Osi Umenyiora and Jason Bell to present highlights of Houston Texans v Miami Dolphins.

12.20 **Film:** The Borderlands. (2013)

1.45 Weather for the Week Ahead.

1.50 BBC News.

BBC2

6.45 Top Class. (R) **7.15** All Over the Place: Europe. **7.45** Wild & Weird. **8.00** Absolute Genius with Dick & Dom. (R) **8.30** Got What It Takes? **9.00** Elephant Diaries. (R) **9.30** Elephant Diaries. (R) **10.00** Natural World: Saving Luna. (R) **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Rick Stein: From Venice to Istanbul. (R) **1.00** Wanted Down Under. (R) **2.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.00** Britain's Ultimate Pilots: Inside the RAF. (R) **4.00** Saving Lives at Sea. (R) **5.00** Letterbox. **5.30** A House Through Time.

6.30 **Dad's Army.** Mainwaring finds a German pilot trapped on top of the town clock by his parachute, so the platoon attempts a rescue mission. (R)

7.00 **Mediterranean with Simon Reeve.** Simon travels through Libya, visiting areas of the country devastated by recent fighting as well as one of the world's best preserved ancient Roman cities. He moves on to Tunisia, where he discovers a mountain fortress and meets a man keeping ancient Berber traditions alive, including making olive oil with the help of camels. Finally, he crosses the sea to Sicily, and discovers how the Mafia are attempting to take advantage of declining population numbers. (R)

8.00 **Elizabeth I's Secret Agents.** The Earl of Essex tries to take over Robert Cecil's spy network to gain control over the ageing Elizabeth I and hold the power to choose the next King of England. (R)

9.00 **Black Hollywood: 'They've Gotta Have Us'.** A look at the future facing black film-makers, examining the impact of high-profile successes such as Black Panther and the Oscar-winning Moonlight and Get Out. Last in the series.

10.00 **Qi XL.** Sandi Toksvig and Alan Davies are joined in this extended edition by Jimmy Carr, Gyles Brandreth and Sally Phillips, who answer questions on the subject of piecemeal.

10.45 **Snowfall.** Franklin realises it's time to step his whole operation up a gear.

11.30 **Last Weekend with Jools Holland.** The pianist welcomes artists including New York rockers Interpol, Buzzy Malone, Rag'n Bone Man, Fantastic Negrito and Another Sky.

12.35 **Film:** Cosmopolis. (2012) **1.15** (GMT) Trust. (R) **2.05** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dana. **6.10** Super 4. (R) **6.25** Super 4. (R) **6.35** Make It Pop. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.15** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: The Powerpuff Girls. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: TootMarty. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Robozuna. **9.05** Scrambled!: Mighty Magiswords! (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** James Martin's Saturday Morning. **11.40** Countrywise. (R) **12.05** ITV News: Weather. **12.15** Midsomer Murders. (R) **2.10** The X Factor. (R) **3.15** Catchphrase. (R) **4.00** Tipping Point. **5.00** The Chase. (R) **5.55** ITV News: Weather.

6.10 **Regional Programme:** Weather.

6.20 **Film: Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2.** (2011) The teenage wizard continues his search for the artefacts containing fragments of the dark lord Voldemort's soul. Time is running out, as the evil sorcerer is aware of Harry's mission, and marshals his forces for a final, devastating attack on Harry and his friends at Hogwarts school. Conclusion of the fantasy saga, with Daniel Radcliffe, Ralph Fiennes, Rupert Grint, Emma Watson and Alan Rickman.

8.35 **The X Factor.** Dermot O'Leary hosts the second week of live shows, with the remaining acts performing to impress judges Simon Cowell, Louis Tomlinson, Robbie Williams and Ayda Williams – as well as the viewing public at home. This year, Simon will be coaching the Girls. Louis has the Boys, Robbie will take on the Groups and Ayda has the Overs.

10.35 **The Jonathan Ross Show.** The host is joined on the sofa by guests Brendan O'Carroll, the man behind Mrs Brown, Emma Willis and Chabuddy G, while Boyzone perform live and discuss their farewell tour.

11.40 **ITV News:** Weather.

12.00 **Play to the Whistle.** With Jonathan Ross, Chris Kamara and Jack P Shepherd. (R) **12.45** Jackpot247.

Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.00** (GMT) Long Lost Family. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

Text-based information service.

CHANNEL 4

6.50 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.15** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.40** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.05** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.00** The Simpsons. (R) **11.30** The Simpsons. (R) **12.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **1.00** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.30** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.00** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.30** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.00** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.30** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **4.30** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **5.35** Escape to the Chateau: DIY. (R)

6.30 **Channel 4 News.**

7.00 **Film: Transformers: Dark of the Moon.** (2011) The heroic autobots discover that a spaceship from their own planet crashed into the moon decades ago, carrying their former leader and an incredibly powerful device. They must fight to defend the human race as their enemies the decepticons plot to use this machine to rebuild their own world and destroy the Earth. Sci-fi adventure sequel, with Shia LaBeouf, Josh Duhamel and Rosie Huntington-Whiteley. Edited for language and violence.

10.00 **Formula 1 Mexican Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights.** Steve Jones presents action from the battle for pole position at the 19th round of the season, which took place at Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez in Mexico City.

11.35 **Film: The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones.** (2013) A teenager discovers she is part of a race of magical beings tasked with defending the world from demons. Fantasy adventure, with Lily Collins and Jamie Campbell Bower.

1.45 **Experimental.** Tim builds a vacuum-powered climbing kit. Last in the series. (R) **4.40** (GMT) Hollyoaks. Omnibus. The day of Ste and Harry's wedding arrives, and Lily enlists Prince and Zack to help with the decorations. Meanwhile, James uses Romeo to help him expose his affair. (R) **4.55** Kirstie's Handmade Treasures. Kirstie Allsopp joins a Women's Institute group. (R) **4.00** French Collection. Three collectors upcycle goods from a Toulouse market. (R) **4.55** Building the Dream. A couple pursues their dream of living mortgage-free. Last in the series. (R) **5.50** The King of Queens. Doug worries he might be losing touch with Carrie. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **9.50** Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.25** The Secret Life of Puppies: Terrible Twos. (R) **11.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.00** Film: Free Willy. (1993) Family drama, starring James James Richter. **3.00** Access. **3.05** Film: Free Willy. (1993) Concluded. **4.20** Rich House, Poor House. (R) **5.20** Bad Tenants, Rogue Landlords. (R)

6.15 **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away!** Two enforcement agents make a shocking discovery in a child's bedroom during an eviction, and a debtor gets physical when he is visited over wages owed to a freelancer. (R)

7.00 **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away!** High Court enforcement officers Paul, Steve and Ben make a shocking discovery when they break into a home while serving an eviction notice on a single mother and her two children. (R)

8.00 **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away!** High Court enforcement officers Paul Bohill and Steve and Ben Pinner face their biggest eviction yet, as they take on squatters in a large London office block. (R)

8.55 **5 News Weekend.**

9.00 **Fury vs Pulev: Live Boxing.** Hughie Fury v Kubrat Pulev. Coverage of the heavyweight bout, which takes place at Arena Armeec in Sofia, Bulgaria. Britain's Fury – the cousin of former world heavyweight champion Tyson – lost his only world title contest in September last year to then-WBO champion Joseph Parker, but bounced back from that loss in May, defeating Sam Sexton to win the British title. Home fighter Pulev also has one loss on his record, a knockout defeat to Wladimir Klitschko in 2014, but is undefeated in five contests since then.

10.30 **Film: Carrie.** (2013) A teenage girl finally snaps and uses her psychic powers to avenge herself on the bullies who tormented her. Horror remake, starring Chloë Grace Moretz and Julianne Moore.

11.30 **Access.** Showbiz news.

11.35 **Film: Carrie.** (2013) Concluded. **12.25** Film: Silent Hill: Revelation. (2012) **1.00** (GMT) SuperCasino. **3.10** GPs: Behind Closed Doors. (R) **4.00** Now That's Funny! (R) **4.45** Wildlife SOS. (R) **5.10** House Doctor. (R) **5.35** House Busters. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Natural World Special: My Life as a Turkey **8.00** Life Story **9.00** 54 Hours: The Gladbek Hostage Crisis **10.30** There She Goes **11.00** Top of the Pops: 1986 **12.00** Britain's Most Dangerous Songs: Listen to the Banned **1.00** Neil Sedaka: King of Song **1.00** (GMT) Knights of Classic Drama at the BBC **2.00** Natural World Special: My Life as a Turkey

ITV2

12.05 You've Been Framed! Gold **12.35** Film: Step Up 3 (2010) **1.40** FYI Daily **1.45** Film: Step Up 3 (2010) **2.50** Film: Beethoven (1992) **4.35** Film: Casper (1995) **6.40** Film: The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King (2003) **10.35** Celebrity Juice: Halloween Special **11.20** Family Guy **12.45** American Dad! **1.40** Don't Hate the Playaz **1.45** (GMT) Release the Hounds **2.35** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **3.00** Teleshopping **4.55** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

12.50 Film: Agatha Christie's Sparkling Cyanide (2003) **2.50** Agatha Christie's Point of View **5.00** Lewis **7.00** Midsommar Murders **9.00** Endeavour **11.00** Inspector Morse **1.25** A Touch of Frost **2.10** (GMT) ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

11.20 The Big Fish Off **12.25** The Motorbike Show **1.30** ITV4 Racing Live from Cheltenham. **2.40** World Cup Rivalries: England v Argentina **4.40** Pawn Stars **5.10** Film: The Scorpion King (2002) **6.10** FYI Daily **6.15** Film: The Scorpion King (2002) **7.00** Film: The European Champion (2002) **7.00** Film: Coverage of day three of the event from Dortmund, Germany. **11.00** Film: Pale Rider (1985) **12.00** FYI Daily **12.05** Film: Pale Rider (1985) **1.20** The Americans **1.25** (GMT) Minder **2.20** The Protectors **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

1.00 Film: Father of the Bride (1991) **3.05** Film: The Great British Bake Off **4.25** Ride (ish) Tube Sheds **4.35** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: Fast & Furious 6 (2013) **11.35** Gogglebox **1.40** Celebs Go Dating **1.45** (GMT) Celebs Go Dating **2.35** Celebs Go Dating

Film4

11.00 Dragonball Evolution (2009) **12.50** Dr Dolittle (1998) **2.20** Flash Gordon (1980) **4.30** Bohemian Rhapsody Interview Special **4.40** Cheaper by the Dozen (2003) **6.35** The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (2015) **9.00** World War (2013) **11.15** The Other Side of the Door (2016) **1.10** Inferno (1980) **2.40** (GMT) Close

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CHOICE



Reece Shearsmith and Steve Pemberton

Inside No 9 Live (BBC2, 10pm)

Over the years this series has given us some of the most chilling, clever and downright bizarre half-hour stories any fan of spooky tales could wish for. And now Steve Pemberton and Reece Shearsmith have penned Dead Line, a live show which, if we're lucky, will prove as captivating as that other live Hallows'en classic, Ghostwatch from 1992. It centres on Arthur Flitwick (Pemberton) who finds an old mobile phone in his local graveyard. It seems like a good idea to try and contact the owner, but as the spookiest time of the year draws near, Arthur is soon immersed in a nightmare of his own making. Apparently no good deed can go unpunished, in this world or the next.

BBC1

6.00 (GMT) Breakfast. 8.40 Match of the Day. (R) 10.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 11.00 Regional Programme. 11.30 Sunday Morning Live. 12.30 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News: Weather. 1.15 Escape to the Country. (R) 2.00 Points of View. 2.15 Songs of Praise. 2.50 Film: Oz the Great and Powerful. (2013) Fantasy adventure, starring James Franco. 4.55 Scared Shrekless. (R) 5.15 BBC News. 5.35 Regional Programme. 5.45 Countryfile Ramble for BBC Children in Need.

7.00 Doctor Who. The Doctor brings her friends back home to 21st-century Sheffield, only to discover there is something strange going on involving all the city's spiders. Chris Noth guest stars.

7.50 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkelman reveal the results of the Halloween special, as two more couples compete in a dance-off. Featuring a special musical performance by Rita Ora.

8.30 Still Open All Hours. Granville invests in a giant balloon for advertising purposes, and has to come up with the best sales pitch he can muster to persuade his customers to buy tins of smoked oysters.

9.00 The Little Drummer Girl. New series. Spy drama set in the 1970s, following the aftermath of a bombing in East Germany. An Israeli intelligence operative investigates, and discovers a connection to a series of assassination attempts against prominent Jewish figures around the world. In London, a struggling actress accepts the offer of a holiday in Greece, leading her to a whirlwind romance that draws her into the agent's operation.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. A review of the day's Premier League action, featuring Burnley v Chelsea at Turf Moor, Crystal Palace v Arsenal at Selhurst Park and Manchester United v Everton at Old Trafford.

11.30 The Women's Football Show. Highlights of the weekend's games in the Super League, and a look at the biggest issues in the women's game.

12.05 The Apprentice. (R) 1.05 The Apprentice: You're Fired. (R) 1.35 Weather. 1.40 BBC News.

BBC2

6.20 (GMT) Around the World in 80 Gardens. (R) 7.20 Carol Klein's Plant Odyssey. (R) 7.50 The Instant Gardener. (R) 8.35 Countryfile. (R) 9.30 The Beechgrove Garden. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. 11.30 The Hairy Bikers' Asian Adventure. (R) 12.10 Live. Jacksonville Jaguars v Philadelphia Eagles (Kick-off 1.30pm). 5.00 Hog It! (R) 5.30 Letterbox.

6.00 Britain's Classroom Heroes 2018. Anita Rani and Sean Fletcher host the annual Pearson Teaching Awards celebrating outstanding teachers from all over the UK, shining a spotlight on the work they do every day to make a difference to children's lives. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the awards, with the introduction of a new category for School of the Year. With celebrity guests on hand to present the accolades, and an exclusive performance from the cast of the popular West End show Everybody's Talking About Jamie, this promises to be a special evening of celebration.

7.00 Nature's Wildest Weapons: Horns, Tusks and Antlers: Natural World. Professor Doug Emlen examines how animals use their bodies as weapons, from elephants to rhinoceros beetles. (R)

8.00 Mediterranean with Simon Reeve. The final leg of the journey takes in Morocco, where Simon visits a land border between Africa and the European Union, before moving on to Spain and Corsica. Last in the series.

9.00 Last Chance Lawyer New York City. Howard takes on a major murder trial, and tries to prove the defendant's claim that he was protecting a woman who was being stalked by the man he killed. Last in the series.

10.00 Inside No 9 Live. A special live episode for Halloween, in which a man finds a mobile phone in a graveyard and tries to return it to its owner, only to be drawn into a nightmare of his own making.

10.30 The Mash Report. Nish Kumar and a cast of comedy correspondents present the satirical and surreal take on the week's news. (R)

11.00 Film: The Ring. (2002) Horror remake, with Naomi Watts.

12.45 Sign Zone: Question Time. 1.45 Holby City. (R) 2.45 This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 (GMT) CITV: (GMT) Dino Dana. 6.10 Super 4. (R) 6.25 Super 4. (R) 6.35 Make It Pop. (R) 6.55 Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) 7.05 Robozuna. (R) 7.30 Scrambled!: Scrambled! 7.35 Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) 7.50 Scrambled!: Ben 10. (R) 8.10 Scrambled!: The Bagel and Becky Show. (R) 8.30 Scrambled!: The Haunted Hathaways. (R) 9.05 Scrambled!: Mighty Magiswords! (R) 9.25 ITV News. 9.30 Love Your Garden. (R) 10.25 Emmerdale 1918. (R) 10.55 Martin Lewis: 10 Things Your Kids Need to Know. (R) 11.55 The Big Audition. (R) 12.50 ITV News. 1.00 The X Factor. (R) 3.00 Back to Mine. 3.30 Tenable. (R) 4.30 The Chase. (R) 5.30 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. (R)

6.30 ITV News: Weather.

6.45 Regional Programme: Weather.

7.00 The Chase Celebrity Special. Bradley Walsh presents as celebrity contestants Dan Harmer, Eddie Hall, Chemistry Alcott and Alex Horne pit their wits against ruthless quiz genius The Chaser in the hope of winning a potential prize pot worth thousands of pounds. They must work as a team and play strategically to answer general knowledge questions against the clock and race down the game board to the exit without being caught.

8.00 The X Factor. Talent contest, hosted by Dermot O'Leary, in which solo singers and groups compete to win a recording contract.

9.00 Butterfly. Vicky forges Stephen's signature to obtain consent for Maxine's treatment, but he has already reported her to the police and she is arrested on her return home. Last in the series.

10.00 ITV News: Weather.

10.20 Gordon Ramsay on Cocaine. First in a two-part documentary in which chef Gordon Ramsay investigates the cocaine trade, seeing how the drug is made and witnessing the arrest of couriers on their way to a deal. (R)

11.20 Gordon, Gino and Fred: Road Trip. The trio tour Gordon Ramsay's birthplace of Scotland, searching for ingredients for a grand feast, while also finding time to take part in the Highland Games. (R)

12.15 Strangers. (R) 1.05 Jackpot247. 3.00 Motorsport UK. (R) 3.50 ITV News. 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 (GMT) The King of Queens. (R) 6.40 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.10 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.35 Frasier. (R) 8.00 Frasier. (R) 8.30 Frasier. (R) 8.55 Jamie Cooks Italy. (R) 9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.30 The Simpsons. (R) 1.00 The Simpsons. (R) 1.30 Film: Tooth Fairy. (2010) Family comedy, starring Dwayne Johnson. 3.35 The Great British Bake Off. (R) 4.55 Film: The Aristocats. (1970) Animated Disney adventure, with the voice of Eva Gabor.

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Phil Spencer's Stately Homes. Phil is invited by Lord David Cholmondeley to visit Houghton Hall in Norfolk, built for Britain's first prime minister Robert Walpole, and attempts to discover how much it cost. He also discovers the story of a disreputable member of the Walpole family who sold the art collection and even the front steps of the house to pay his gambling debts. (R)

8.00 Great Canal Journeys. Timothy West and Prunella Scales explore the waterways of North-West England, from the suburbs of Manchester, through Britain's first purpose-built canal, to the port at Ellesmere. They discover how canals played a vital role in transforming Britain during the Industrial Revolution, and have subsequently become a central point of Manchester's gay community.

9.00 Film: Deepwater Horizon. (2016) Premiere. An oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico is beset by technical difficulties – but executives from the company behind the project ignore the warning signs and demand work proceeds as normal, despite warnings from key engineers on site. The situation rapidly gets out of control, leading to the worst environmental disaster in US history. Drama, starring Mark Wahlberg.

11.00 Formula 1 Mexican Grand Prix Highlights. Steve Jones presents action from the 19th round of the season, which took place at Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez in Mexico City.

1.15 Film: Little Men. (2016) 2.45 The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice. (R) 3.40 Building the Dream. (R) 4.35 French Collection. (R) 5.25 Buy It Now. (R) 5.50 Countdown. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 (GMT) Milkshake!: (GMT) Peppa Pig. 6.05 Peppa Pig. (R) 6.10 Peppa Pig. (R) 6.15 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 6.30 Luo Bao Bei. (R) 6.40 Digby Dragon. (R) 6.50 Fireman Sam. (R) 7.00 Thomas & Friends. (R) 7.15 Bob the Builder. (R) 7.25 Rusty Rivets. 7.45 Peppa Pig. (R) 7.50 Peppa Pig. (R) 8.00 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 8.15 Paw Patrol. (R) 8.30 Nella the Princess Knight. 8.50 Shimmer and Shine. (R) 9.00 Pirata & Capitano. (R) 9.15 Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) 9.35 Hoops. (R) 9.50 Paw Patrol. (R) 10.00 Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) 10.20 Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) 10.35 Cruising with Jane McDonald. (R) 10.45 Criminals: Caught on Camera. (R) 11.10 Friends. (R) 11.40 Friends. (R) 12.10 Friends. (R) 12.40 Friends. (R) 1.10 Friends. (R) 1.40 Friends. (R) 2.05 Friends. (R) 2.35 Friends. (R) 3.05 Friends. (R) 3.35 Friends. (R) 4.05 Film: Goosebumps. (2015) 5.05 5 News Update. 5.10 Film: Goosebumps. (2015) Concluded.

6.10 The Lion Cub from Harrods. Documentary telling the story of two Australian furniture salesmen who bought a lion cub from Harrods in 1969 and raised it themselves. (R)

7.00 Inside Harrods: The World's Most Famous Department Store. Documentary going behind the famous gold-and-green facade of the retailer, to explore the store's million square feet of shopping space, as well as the secrets of its success.

8.00 Ice Road Truckers. Art Burke hits a melting ice crossing and a load that is right at the weight limit. Steph Custance finds out whether she will be joining the Polar team.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Hitler's Holocaust Railways with Chris Tarrant. Chris Tarrant explores the use of trains in transporting millions of prisoners to ghettos and death camps during the Holocaust. Featuring contributions from survivors.

10.30 Big Brother.

12.00 When Kids Kill: Beaten for Being Different. The heartbreaking story of a young couple who were attacked for how they looked. (R) 12.45 Helicopter Pursuits: Caught on Camera. A compilation of police helicopter chases. (R) 1.10 SuperCasino. 3.10 Film: What I Did for Love. (2006) 4.40 Access. 4.45 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.10 House Doctor. (R) 5.35 House Busters. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 (GMT) Locomotion: Dan Snow's History of Railways 8.00 The Ghan: Australia's Greatest Train Journey 11.00! Was a Yazidi Slave 12.00 Art of France 1.00 Timeshift: The Golden Age of Coach Travel 2.00 Timeshift: The Modern Age of The Coach 3.00 The Culture Show: Lego – The Building Blocks of Architecture 3.30 Close

ITV2

12.30 Celebrity Catchphrase 1.35 You've Been Framed! Gold 2.35 Film: Babe: Pig in the City (1998) 3.35 FYI Daily 3.40 Film: The Smurfs: The Legend of Smurfy Hollow 4.55 Film: Hotel Transylvania 2 (2015) 6.00 FYI Daily 6.05 Film: Hotel Transylvania 2 (2015) 6.45 Film: The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (2012) 7.50 FYI Daily 7.55 Film: The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (2012) 10.00 Family Guy 11.30 American Dad! 12.25 The Weekender: Boat Party 2.10 Teleshopping 5.50 ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

11.15 Bertie and Elizabeth 1.20 Agatha Christie's Poirot 3.30 Film: Columbo: The Most Dangerous Match (1973) 5.00 Foyle's War 9.00 Agatha Christie's Poirot 11.25 Film: Chocolat (2000) 1.40 Paul O'Grady's Animal Orphans 2.35 Murder, She Wrote 3.30 Road to Avonlea 5.10 Judge Judy 5.35 ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4

11.20 Pawn Stars 12.45 Darts: European Championship Live. Coverage of day four of the event from Dortmund, Germany. 5.00 Pawn Stars 5.55 Made in Britain 7.00 Darts: European Championship Live. The semi-finals and final on day four of the event from Dortmund, Germany. 11.00 Film: Saw (2004) 12.00 FYI Daily 12.05 Film: Saw (2004) 1.05 The Avengers 2.15 Pawn Stars 2.40 ITV4 Nightscreen 3.00 Teleshopping

E4

12.35 Happy Together 1.05 New Girl 1.35 The Big Bang Theory 7.00 Film: Crocodile Dundee (1986) 9.00 Celebs Go Dating 10.00 Club Rep Wars 11.05 The Big Bang Theory 12.05 First Dates 1.10 Celebs Go Dating 2.15 Club Rep Wars 3.05 Rude Tube 3.30 Hollyoaks

Film4

11.00 (GMT) Carry On Regardless (1961) 12.50 Starman (1984) 3.05 Titanic (1997) 6.55 The Princess Bride (1987) 9.00 Kingsman: The Secret Service (2015) 11.40 The Taking of Deborah Logan (2014) 1.30 The Piper (2015) 3.45 Close

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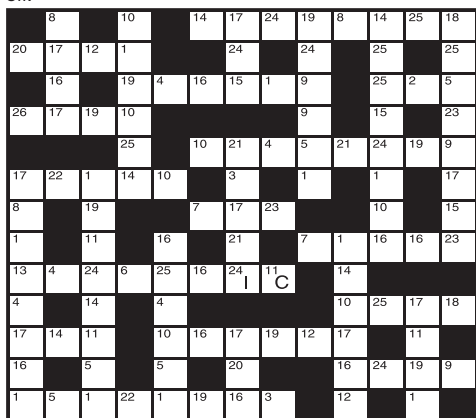
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BRAIN GYM

No.503

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
J	K	H	U	I	N	D	O	P	L	S	Q	Y
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
W	V	C	F	T	M	A	B	E	R	G	Z	X

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues – both fit the same grid.

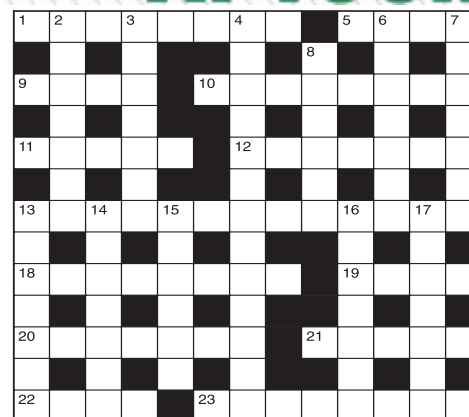
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- One abandoned by players on opponent's ground (8)
- Copied some cheap editions (4)
- Store between 180 and 270 degrees (4)
- Conscientious objections (8)
- This Jack has three crosses to bear (5)
- Hide in N. Africa (7)
- Show off? (2,11)
- He sees to a minor charge (8)
- Sweet and sour (4)
- Ends an interim arrangement (7)
- Present part of 10 Down (5)
- A vessel we turn and turn about (4)
- Shame! (8)

Down

- A new notion for the Merchant of Venice (7)
- Drawing line (3-4)
- Taking in, being obliging (13)
- It has a large bill in place perhaps (7)
- Arrange to order (7)
- Business may be started with it (6)
- Garment shortened – after dark that is (7)
- It was plain to early American settlers (7)
- Tree used in sacred fires (3,3)
- Not many can provide a word of opposite meaning (7)
- It's funny, there's nothing in the box (7)



Quick Clues:

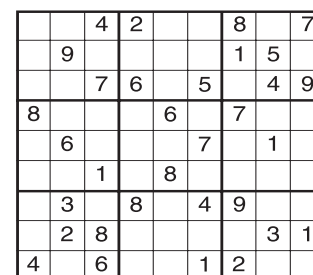
Across

- Assessment (8)
- Fish-pond (4)
- Replete (4)
- Reasoning (8)
- Railing (5)
- Finger protector (7)
- Somersaulting (4,4,5)
- Pastoral (8)
- Apiece (4)
- Opening (7)
- Scatter (5)
- Band (4)
- Candidate (8)

Down

- Trip (7)
- Maltreated (3-4)
- Reverse fortunes (4,3,6)
- Quake (7)
- Testimony (7)
- Stubborn (6)
- Trial (7)
- Sale (7)
- Decree (6)
- Voter (7)
- Reading desk (7)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

8	2	9	4	1	3	6	7	5
4	5	3	7	9	6	2	8	1
7	6	1	5	8	2	4	9	3
2	7	5	8	3	9	1	6	4
9	3	8	1	6	4	5	2	7
6	1	4	2	5	7	9	3	8
5	4	6	9	7	8	3	1	2
3	8	2	6	4	1	7	5	9
1	9	7	3	2	5	8	4	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
 CRYPTIC – Across: 1 Air-hostess; 7 Owing; 8 Aligned; 10 Enshroud; 11 Stet; 13 Shriek; 15 Gnomon; 17 Dock; 18 Mail-boat; 21 Saviour; 22 Set-to; 23 Grass widow. Down: 1 Aries; 2 Regarded; 3 Opaque; 4 Twin; 5 Sanctum; 6 Sobersides; 9 Detonation; 12 Analysed; 14 Recover; 16 Marrow; 19 On tow; 20 Bows.
 QUICK – Across: 1 Pleasantry; 7 Blush; 8 Nonplus; 10 Reserved; 11 Mete; 13 Verbal; 15 Surest; 17 Arch; 18 Preserve; 21 Erudite; 22 Infer; 23 Pestilence. Down: 1 Pours; 2 Ethereal; 3 Sinner; 4 None; 5 Relieve; 6 Abbreviate; 9 Sweetheart; 12 Question; 14 Recluse; 16 Ordeal; 19 Rifle; 20 List.

Quiz

- Which cartoonist and illustrator created the schoolgirls of St. Trinian's?
- Which king's eldest son was the Black Prince?
- What is the capital of the Lorraine region?
- Of which bird is the tragopan a type?
- Which band's drummer did Baywatch star Pamela Anderson marry and divorce?
- What, in economics, may be fixed or circulating?
- On the southern flank of which mountain is Delphi?
- Which boxer underwent surgery to remove a blood clot after his fight with Nigel Benn?
- Of what are bort, balas and carbonado varieties?
- Where did Billy Butlin open his first camp?

Last week's solutions:

- Quiz: 1 Echo; 2 Iceland; 3 Spanish dance; 4 Parish; 5 Oscar Wilde; 6 Philo Remington; 7 Lioness; 8 Lake Michigan; 9 Story of Esther; 10 Travis.

Niner: ROYALTIES

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

7988
7612
34519

gives a Scottish inventor,
gives a second Scottish inventor,
gives a French-Polish scientist.



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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY
GUIDE TO HOME
BUYING AND
LETTING

23

Dudley Chronicle Thursday, October 25, 2018

Home has been refurbished to a high standard

Having been recently refurbished, with work completed to a very high standard, this premier five-bedroomed end of terraced property in Gospel Oak Road, Tipton, is for sale through Skitts estate agents at £199,950 with no chain.

In a popular location, this perfect family home now has new electrics, gas central heating and double glazing throughout. On the ground floor this spacious home has a large entrance hallway, a lounge, a dining room, a kitchen, utility room and WC.

On the first floor the property comprises of a large landing space with a loft hatch accessing the roof space, five bedrooms, an en-suite off the master bedroom, a bathroom and separate WC.

The property is a short distance away from popular schools. Tipton Sports Academy is a short walk away, as well as local amenities. The residence has fantastic transport links to A41, A4123, M6 and M5 which are all within a short drive from the property. Public travel links such as bus routes, train stations and the metro are all within close proximity.

Viewings are highly recommended by the selling agent to appreciate the spacious and standard of finish this wonderful home.

In more detail it has grass lawn to the front with a path leading to the main entrance door. This opens into the entrance hallway with stairs off to the first floor, spotlights and a downstairs WC.

The lounge having a double glazed bay window to the front. The dining room has a double glazed window to the rear.

The kitchen has a double glazed window to the side, a range a fitted wall and base units with roll edge work surface, a sink with drainer and mixer tap, a double electric oven, five-ring gas hob with an extractor fan over and a utility room off, having a second sink and plumbing for a washing machine.

The first floor landing has spotlights and a WC. Bedroom one (en-suite) is to the rear. Bedroom two is to the side. Bedroom three is to the front, as are bedrooms four and five.

TIPTON £199,950



TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

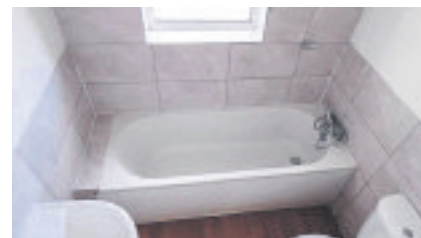
AGENT: Skitts Estate Agents

TEL: 0121 520 2255

EMAIL: greatbridge@skitts.co.uk

KEY FEATURES

No chain
Recently refurbished
End terrace
5 bedrooms



He's sold

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If you are thinking of selling, look no further than the estate agents in these pages for the best local advice available.



Modern bungalow lies in a lovely position

HAGLEY
£389,950

This superb modern detached bungalow in Rockingham Hall Gardens, Hagley, Stourbridge, lies in a lovely position overlooking fields.

It is for sale through Taylors estate agents at £389,950.

Splendidly proportioned, having gas radiator heating and double glazing, its accommodation briefly comprises an open porch, an attractive hall, a lounge, a large breakfast kitchen with integral appliances, three bedrooms (one used as a dining room), an en-suite, a lovely main bathroom and a well maintained garden.

The selling agents are expecting a great deal of interest to be shown in the sale of this property.

Contact Taylors estate agents on 0121 550 3978 for more details.



Three-storey residence is presented to high standard

DUDLEY
£299,950

<<<

A highly impressive, luxury family residence, 5 Marl Way on Baggeridge Village, Dudley, has been meticulously designed to a particularly high specification by David Wilson Homes.

It is for sale through Skitts Estate Agents at £299,950.

This delightful home is arranged over three floors and is presented to an exceptional standard throughout with a living room, breakfast kitchen, downstairs WC, three double bedrooms, a family bathroom and an en-suite shower room.

This outstanding property includes integrated appliances in the stunning breakfast kitchen plus concealed lighting, Karndean flooring, and an amazing 20ft master bedroom on the second floor.

Contact Skitts Estate Agents on 01902 686868.



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SEDGLEY/WOODSETTON, Tipton Road

An imposing, **REMARKABLY SPACIOUS**, 5 bedroom detached family residence of immense character with many period 'Art Deco' features set in extensive grounds comprising: entrance vestibule, imposing reception hall (N.B. 9 ft ceiling height & gallery landing above), fitted cloaks, elegant 21 ft lounge with bay, dining room, sitting room, servery, pantry, kitchen, **FIVE BEDROOMS**, bathroom, separate toilet. Substantial double garage, south facing rear garden with panoramic views. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY



NR SEDGLEY, Charles Hayward Drive

A truly stunning modern apartment, situated on the second floor and located near to local transport links and amenities. As well as being stylishly presented and conscientiously maintained, this wonderful property also boasts, gas central heating, double glazing, spacious hallway with storage, open-plan lounge-kitchen with various integrated appliances, **TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS**, attractive bathroom along with allocated parking. **VIEWING ESSENTIAL**. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY.



SEDGLEY, Arcal Street

A great opportunity to acquire a good-sized traditional terraced, close to local schools, amenities and Sedgley shops. With gas central heating and being mostly double glazed this starter home also has, living room, spacious dining room, utility area, fitted kitchen, ground floor shower room with W/C, **TWO BEDROOMS**, bathroom, enclosed rear garden and is offered with **NO UPWARD CHAIN**. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of **£525,000**

Offers in the region of **£129,950**

Offers in the region of **£104,950**



SEDGLEY, Gate Street

Wonderful **DETACHED** family home & **COACH HOUSE**, located within flat walking distance of Sedgley village. Benefiting from being gas centrally heated and double glazed, this property also boasts: porch, hallway, living room, dining room, breakfast-kitchen, utility, guest W/C, **THREE BEDROOMS**, bathroom, garage and parking to front with stunning rear garden. EPC: D SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of **£299,950**



KINGSWINFORD, Madeley Road

An **EXTENDED**, **SEMI-DETACHED** FAMILY HOME which is superbly located, enjoying a **LARGE PRIVATE REAR GARDEN** and a **FULL BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY**. The accommodation is **VERY SPACIOUS** and **WELL PRESENTED** throughout and includes a **CONSERVATORY** and **THREE FIRST FLOOR BEDROOMS**. EPC C

£210,000



WALLBROOK, Bradleys Lane

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Wonderfully presented, well maintained **DETACHED** bungalow located in the popular Wallbrook area. This traditional home includes gas central heating & double glazing as well as benefitting from, entrance hallway, through-lounge diner, kitchen, **THREE BEDROOMS**, bathroom, rear porch/ storage, detached garage with storage/ workshop, attractive rear garden, drive with ample parking. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of **£189,950**



WOLVERHAMPTON, Laburnum Road, Ettingshall Park

Significantly **ENLARGED**, gas centrally heated & double glazed semi detached comprising: Porch, hall, enlarged fitted cloaks/ shower room, lounge, dining room with patio doors, enlarged/ refitted kitchen, three large bedrooms and a further study (occasional fourth bedroom?) bathroom, former garage (is a utility room) garden. EPC: C SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of **£189,950**



KINGSWINFORD, Lingfield Way

A **SEMI-DETACHED BUNGALOW**, convenient for shops and amenities. The **EXTENDED** accommodation is **VERY WELL PRESENTED** and has been **SUCCESSFULLY REAPPOINTED** and includes **TWO GOOD BEDROOMS**. With **FRONT/ SIDE DRIVEWAY**, **GARAGE** and a private and sunny garden. EPC D

No upward chain

£189,950



DUDLEY, Donnington Court

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Modern, gas centrally heated & double glazed end town house located on the popular Capital Heights development. Stylish family home has a wealth of accommodation over 3 stories including: hallway, kitchen-diner, guest W/C, study/ sitting room, 1st floor living room, **THREE BEDROOMS** with ensuite to master, bathroom, garden, parking for two cars. EPC: C SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of **£179,995**



LOWER GORNAL, Thornleigh

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Fantastically **EXTENDED** semi-detached property situated on the popular Thornleigh neighbourhood. With entrance porch and hallway as well as extended through lounge and kitchen-diner this family home also boast **THREE BEDROOMS**, attractive modern shower room, garage/ storage, enclosed low maintenance rear garden with drive for multiple vehicles to fore as well as gas central heating and double glazing. EPC: D SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of **£174,950**



COSELEY, Beechfield Grove

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Located on the sought after Bramford estate and within walking distance of local schools, shops etc. Though it does require some level of modernisation, it does benefit from gas central heating & double glazing this semi-detached family home also comprises: porch, hallway, living room, **EXTENDED** dining room, **EXTENDED KITCHEN**, **THREE BEDROOMS**, bathroom, garage, enclosed rear garden with drive and shared access with garden to front. EPC D SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of **£169,950**



COSELEY, Paul Street, Hurst Hill

A well maintained and tastefully presented semi-detached property. With entrance porch and hall, this **EXTENDED** family home also consists of living room, dining room, kitchen-diner, ground floor shower room, garage/storage area, **FOUR BEDROOMS**, family bathroom, attractive enclosed rear garden with parking. There is also electric heating and double glazing, and is offered with **NO UPWARD CHAIN**. MINE SEARCH AVAILABLE. EPC: F SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of **£159,950**



DUDLEY, Bordeaux Close, Milking Bank

Located in the extremely popular Milking Bank area of Dudley, this property is perfect for a first time buyer or someone downsizing. Being tastefully presented and well maintained this modern semi has gas central heating and double glazing along with hall, living room, kitchen-diner, **TWO BEDROOMS**, fitted bathroom, **DETACHED GARAGE**, enclosed rear garden with driveway offering parking for multiple vehicles to front and side. Offered with **NO UPWARD CHAIN**. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of **£159,950**



WOODSETTON, Sedgley Road

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Good sized **DETACHED** family home located in popular location and within walking distance of local amenities, schools etc. Well maintained property consists of gas central heating and double glazing & briefly comprises: through lounge-diner, kitchen, **THREE BEDROOMS**, bathroom, enclosed rear garden with garage and parking to rear, plus the potential for spacious driveway to fore. Viewing is **ESSENTIAL!** ●●● Mine search available ●●●. EPC: D SEDGLEY

New price WAS **£154,950**, NOW **£149,950**



UPPER GORNAL, Stable Court

Tremendously enhanced, double glazed, gas centrally heated (recent combi boiler) end 'starter home' with rare advantage of large brick **GARAGE** situated in short cul-de-sac within walking distance of amenities comprising: lounge, refitted breakfast kitchen. Two bedrooms (principal bedroom with fitted units & an overstorey cupboard), bathroom, garden with patio and **BRICK GARAGE** with extensive additional parking. EPC: C SEDGLEY

New price WAS **£149,950**, NOW **£145,000**



SEDGLEY, Lime Road

COMPREHENSIVELY MODERNISED/REFURBISHED in recent months, carpeted & re-decorated throughout etc.; a 'ready to move into' starter home in popular district comprising: entrance porch, reception hall, store, lounge with bay, stunning through 'hub of the house' dining kitchen, utility section, loobies, store & w.c. **THREE BEDROOMS**, reapointed bathroom, gardens. EPC: D SEDGLEY

New price WAS **£145,000**, NOW **£139,950**



COSELEY, Providence Row

A spacious semi detached family property which offers accommodation over two stories and briefly comprises of: entrance hall, through lounge, fitted kitchen, **THREE BEDROOMS**, family bathroom, gas central heating and double glazing with offer road parking to fore and enclosed rear garden. Also offered with **NO UPWARD CHAIN**. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of **£114,950**



COSELEY, Ebenezer Street

A nicely presented and well maintained traditional terraced property located in the popular Coseley area of Bilston. As well as having gas central heating and double glazing this fantastic starter home also boasts, living room, re-fitted kitchen-diner, **TWO BEDROOMS**, bathroom and rear garden with double gated access formerly used as by current owners as a driveway. Offered with **NO UPWARD CHAIN**. EPC: E SEDGLEY.

New price WAS **£104,950**, NOW **£99,950**



Three bedroomed home finished to excellent standard

TURNBERRY
£285,000

Being immaculately refurbished, 26 Gleneagles Road, Turnberry, Bloxwich is finished to an excellent standard, including a designer glass staircase.

Featuring a stunning brand new Howdens kitchen and a new luxury bathroom and en-suite, this three-bedroom detached home is for sale through Goodchilds estate agents at £285,000 with no chain.

The residence is set in a desirable location on the Turnberry development within easy reach of local shops, schools and Bloxwich train station, providing access routes to Birmingham and London.

Internally the property has undergone complete renovation including a new Howdens fitted kitchen with integrated Lamona appliances and tiled flooring, a new Baxi gas boiler and central heating system with Deco design double radiators, luxurious



designer bathroom with walk-in shower and stardust porcelain tiled floor and many other features which need to be seen to be appreciated.

In more detail the block paved driveway leads to the garage and has lawn and shrub borders to the side.

The kitchen, which is served by a utility room with a guest WC off, has smart light coloured units complemented by contemporary chrome handles and marble-effect work surfaces and wood-effect flooring.

The spacious lounge has wood-effect flooring and a new gas fire and the designer glass staircase off.

The selling agents are expecting a great deal of interest to be shown in the sale of this home.

Call Goodchilds on 01922 405699.



Stunning and historic four bedroom home ideal for family

WALSALL
£685,000 >>>

Being truly stunning and historic, this four-bedroom detached house for sale in Main Street, Stonnall, Walsall, is ideal for a family.

Having been much improved by the current owner, it is for sale through Edwards Moore now at £685,000. With gas central heating and double glazing, it has a stunning reception hall, a delightful downstairs WC, a most impressive through lounge, lovely sitting room with an inglenook fireplace, a dining room and a superb living kitchen. It also has a utility, four double bedrooms (master en-suite), an en-suite to the third bedroom, a large family bathroom, a study, a garage, an impressive private rear garden with large patio area, and a wide frontage having plenty of parking and lawns.

For further information or to book that all important viewing, contact the selling agents Edwards Moore on 01922 745105.



Family home on corner plot is packed the wow factor

WALSALL
£230,000 <<<

This stunning family home on a corner plot in Griffins Crescent, Walsall, is packed with the "wow factor".

It is for sale through Webbs Estate Agents at offers over £230,000.

It is situated in a sought-after cul-de-sac location on a popular development.

Its accommodation briefly comprises a through hallway, a lounge, a kitchen/diner, a guest WC, four bedrooms, a bathroom and an en-suite to the master.

Outside, there is a private driveway, a garage and landscaped gardens. In more detail the entrance hall has stairs off.

The lounge has a bay window to the front and French doors to the kitchen/diner, which is stunning.

To book that all important viewing, contact Webbs estate agents on 01922 663399.



wolverhampton@skitts.net 01902 788188 | wednesfield@skitts.net 01902 732324 | sedgley@skitts.net 01902 686868 | bilston@skitts.net 01902 353578
 willenhall@skitts.net 01902 631151 | wednesbury@skitts.net 0121 505 1818 | greatbridge@skitts.net 0121 520 2255 | bloxwich@skitts.net 01922 478104

Chalmers Road, Baggeridge Village £299,995



	2		4
	2	EPC	B

Marl Way, Baggeridge Village £299,950




	1		3
	2	EPC	B

Humphrey Street, Lower Gornal £299,950



	1		2
	4	EPC	D

St. Mary's Close, Sedgley £275,000



	3		3
	2	EPC	E

Stone Mill Walk, Upper Gornal £274,950



	1		4
	2	EPC	B

Ladies Walk, Sedgley £200,000



	2		3
	1	EPC	D

Warren Drive, Northway OIRO £195,000




	1		3
	1	EPC	E

Longfellow Road, The Staits £185,000



	2		3
	1	EPC	E

Harvest Close, Upper Gornal £165,000



	1		2
	1	EPC	C

Gospel End Street, Sedgley Auction Guide Price £275,000



	2		4
	2	EPC	F

AUCTION 25TH OCTOBER

Robert Street, Lower Gornal Auction Guide Price £120,000



	2		1
	3	EPC	E

AUCTION 25TH OCTOBER

Land, Claremont Road, Sedgley Auction Guide Price £55,000



Planning permission for two bedroom detached house

AUCTION 25TH OCTOBER



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Suzuki is an expert in small cars

Suzuki Swift — economical city car with all-wheel drive ability

By John Griffiths

The leaves are changing colour and before we know it we'll be coping with another winter of wet, freezing or perhaps even snow-covered roads.

Of course we all want to stay safe, to have traction and stability in all conditions but not everyone can spend £25,000 to £150,000 on a big all-wheel drive SUV.

That's where Suzuki comes into its own: a company with acknowledged expertise in small cars and decades of experience in four-wheel drive.

It sells FWD versions of its Vitara, S-Cross, Ignis, S-Cross and the soon to be updated Jimny, one of the smallest and for its size most capable SUVs.

Then, of course, there is its biggest seller, the Swift supermini in various guises from family runabout to hot hatch – and of course a four wheel drive version.

Costing from £16,499 (£1,000 over the front wheel drive equivalent) it comes with an economical 1.2 litre 'Dualjet' petrol engine and a four wheel drive system – lightweight and compact, it only operates when it's needed so as to save fuel. It's fully automatic. For the most part the driver won't know when it's working (except that you keep going when others stop).

The price tag also reflects the fact that this particular Swift model comes in top of the range SZ5 trim – five door like the rest of the Swift family with a colour touch screen,



The car has a colour touch screen

satnav, climate control and a raft of safety features. The transmission is a five-speed manual.

The powertrain also includes SHVS (Smart Hybrid Vehicle by Suzuki), a mild hybrid system which regenerates the batteries under braking, then uses the power gained to assist acceleration and economy. No need to plug in to the mains. It also assists the automatic stop/start system.

Its fuel average competes with many diesels: up to 62.8mpg in official tests. I did average a remarkable 60mpg on one journey, while the overall 'real world' average for me was 54mpg.

The AWD's official figure, by the way, is only a couple of mpg less than that of the front wheel drive: a small penalty to set against the potential benefits and a testament to its efficiency. That equates to a low 101g/km of CO2, while it's 0 to 62mph acceleration time is 12.6 seconds.

The Swift AllGrip's ability to go off-roading is somewhat limited by its ground clearance, but it is a reassuringly stable drive on muddy country roads and farm tracks. There was no snow to test the car on, but there was certainly plenty of rain. The AllGrip system does quell any tendency to understeer in cornering and I was very glad it was there, doing its job in the background, on a motorway run when something akin to a tropical storm dumped about an inch of surface water on the road.

From the outside, AllGrip Swift is virtually identical to its siblings: stylish if slightly taller than many rivals which allows generous headroom and great visibility through the large windows. That makes it easy to park, too, especially with the rear view camera standard on SZ5 versions. The latest Swift is significantly larger than the previous model, with plenty of head and legroom for six-foot adults even in the back.

The ride is moderately firm, but driver and passenger are well cushioned by the upholstery and the suspension settings add to the nimble, fun to drive nature of the car.

The boot has 265 litres of space, which can be extended by adjusting the split/fold rear seats.

SZ5 versions of the Swift are packed with kit. There's the central colour screen for audio, phone and satnav functions, adaptive cruise control, electric windows, LED headlamps, tinted glass and alloy wheels.

Safety features include front, side and curtain airbags, ABS, stability control, tyre pressure monitor, lane departure warning, and emergency brake assist.

There are very few cars in this class – that is economical city cars with all-wheel drive ability – and space, equipment and price make the Swift 4x4 a serious contender for drivers who want that reassurance.

Oak Garage

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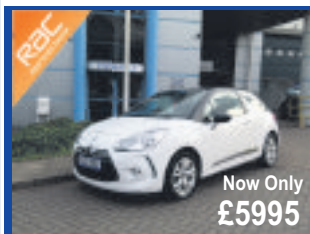


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UK's top road rage phrases revealed

Road rage is something most motorists will have faced one time or another – and new research has revealed the phrases Brits are most likely to spout when seeing red behind the wheel.

The survey of 1,329 motorists across the UK by private number plate specialists Click4Reg has found that 'Go on then, move!' is the most popular choice of words by enraged drivers – with 72 per cent saying they have used the phrase.

Following just behind is 'Is the person in front dead?', with 70 per cent of respondents having said this at some point, while 'He's not even looking' rounded out the top three with 67 per cent.

Passive-aggressive statements also seem to be popular amongst road rage Brits – with 61 per cent of those surveyed having said 'You're welcome' in a sarcastic manner to another motorist.

It should be mentioned Click4Reg opted to omit suggestions with expletives in, which has likely skewed these results, but the data collected proves road rage is a common problem in the UK.

In fact, 78 per cent said they have at some point experienced a burst of anger behind the wheel — with 46 per cent of all saying they experience it on a daily basis.

Some prove to be far more aggressive than others when overcome with road rage though, with 66 per cent of respondents claiming to be reluctant to use their vehicle's horn – while the other 34 per cent identified as 'serial honkers'.

X5 plug-in hybrid has 50-mile electric range



BMW's latest plug-in hybrid model will mate a new, larger petrol engine with an electric motor and provide up to 50 miles of zero-emission electric range.

Based on the latest X5 and catchily badged xDrive 45e iPerformance, the new model follows on from the xDrive40e iPerformance available on the previous-generation X5. Where that car used a 2.0-litre petrol engine, though, BMW decided that good things aren't always to be found in small packages and has replaced it with a 3.0-litre straight-six twin-turbocharged unit.

The petrol engine develops 282bhp on its own and is paired with a 110bhp electric motor for a total system output of 389bhp. That's enough to jettison the weighty X5 from 0-60mph in under 5.6 seconds – more than a second faster than its predecessor.

Electric range has increased, too. The 45e is capable of around three times more distance on electric power alone than its 40e predecessor, at 50 miles.

The car's top speed is 146mph, while maximum speed in electric mode is now 87mph rather than the 76mph of the 40e.

Power is put to the road through an eight-speed automatic gearbox and sent to all four wheels – as you'd hope on a chunky SUV such as this. Don't expect off-road performance to match a Range Rover, but BMW says the new X5 is far better on the rough stuff than its predecessor yet still retains 'sporty driving pleasure on the road'.

Carbon dioxide emissions dip below the crucial 50g/km – the threshold at which the X5 is classified as an ultra-low emissions car in some European markets. BMW claims fuel economy of 134.5mpg, although this is highly dependent on driving conditions and the length of the journey.

Flagship V90 has effortless and refined performance

By John Griffiths

Volvo has unveiled a new and more powerful flagship for its premium V90 – and perhaps surprisingly it's petrol-powered.

The 2.0 litre, four cylinder unit is 'only' two litres but it's turbocharged, so its 250PS of power is complemented by 350 Newtonmetres of torque from just 1,800rpm.

Together, with an eight-speed auto transmission, it defines the car's character – effortless and refined performance befitting a premium executive express.

Named the T5, this new engine takes the power mantle from the petrol T4, with its 190Ps output, which continues as a mainstay of the range.

It's also a new option for the Swedish company's flagship XC90 SUV.

Where a few years ago diesel dominated – principally due to its overall economy and tax liabilities based on its generally lower CO2 ratings – the tide began to turn in favour of petrol three years ago or so.

Dropped

Now, more petrol models than diesels are being sold and some manufacturers of smaller cars have dropped oil burners altogether.

The change was accelerated by the extra four per cent levy on diesel company cars which came into effect in April.

It's also down to the development of smaller, lighter petrol engines with turbocharging to emulate that lazy, torquey performance and greater economy almost reaching diesel levels.

Volvo itself dropped six cylinder engines some years ago, committing to a four pot only future (except for the new 1.5 litre three cylinder units).

The T5 powers the big V90 estate, for example, from a standstill to 62mph in 6.8 seconds yet is capable of averaging 41.5mpg – only a fraction less than the 190PS T4.

Although the T5 costs £3,000 more, model for model, the fact that its economy and CO2 figures (157g/km) are so close means the all important benefit-in-kind tax for business users is the same, and car tax is the basic £140.

The V90 test car was an R-Design costs from £45,850, around £6,000 less than the similarly powered D5 diesel, but that also has all wheel drive.

The T5-powered XC90 costs from £50,435 to £59,235. Its figures are 35.8mpg and 184g/km, while the 0 to 62mph dash takes 7.9 seconds – very competitive vital statistics for a large all-wheel drive car.

The T5 feels lively in both cars, but it's also very refined – running most on minimal revs and in virtual silence.

That's due to the power/torque combination, of course, and has all the luxury ambience of a larger capacity V8



of only a few years ago. The 'smaller is beautiful' theme continues with the car's dynamics, the smaller, largely aluminium engine being considerably lighter so that the V90 turns in and changes directions more sharply.

In spite of the R-Design model's lowered sports chassis the ride is impressively smooth and the driver can dial in eco, comfort, sport and individual driving models.

Ride comfort is completed by the big, contoured leather sports seats in the front, with electrical adjustment and extendable cushions.

The rear has limousine-like leg and headroom, making the car comfortable for up to five adults while carrying 560 litres (and well over double that with the rear seats folded).

R-Design is the sportiest trim, with features such as sports pedals, high gloss back and metal mesh inlays.

Front LED foglights with cornering function to complement the active LED headlights.

Like the rest of the range, it has a central colour touchscreen controller as well as a configurable, 12.3-inch driver information display.

The touch screen, for audio, connectivity and navigation functions – even the dual zone climate control – is a model of clarity and probably one of the easiest and most intuitive to use.

It makes the cockpit clean and tidy, with no need for drivers to be searching among a plethora of buttons and switches.

The list of equipment on the V90 is a very long one indeed, beginning with the entry-level Momentum and either the sportily-themed R-Design or R-Design Pro or the rather more restrained luxury of the Inscription and Inscription Pro.

With the British market (to say nothing of others abroad) seeing a revival of petrol's fortunes in the premium car sector, Volvo needed the T4 and T5 engines for both the V90 and XC90.

The engineering with which it has achieved its goal is impressive: smaller and lighter than some of its six and eight cylinder rivals but with the high levels of refinement expected of an executive express.

As a result, the relative economy and emissions figures of both compared to class rivals, plus the ranges' price structure, mean the sort of comparative running costs and tax levels which might even make an accountant smile.

For the ultimate green machines in these two model ranges, there's also the T8 option – a petrol electric hybrid which cost more (from £59,250 for the V90, £66,070 for the XC90) but attract the lowest tax rates.

Rare 1968 Ford Anglia is donated to museum

A rare 1968 Ford Anglia 123E Super has been donated to the British Motor Museum by Chris and Michael Gates.

The car, which is in fantastic condition with only 32,000 miles on the clock, has been in their family since new and was originally owned by Chris's grandmother. It is now located on the Time Road as part of the permanent collection to be enjoyed by thousands of visitors to the museum.

This more powerful version of the Anglia joined the range in 1962 and was known as the Anglia Super. The Super used a larger 1198cc (1200) version of the standard Anglia engine and enjoyed improved performance as a result. The new model also had a two-tone paint scheme which consisted of a side stripe and roof panel painted in a contrasting colour.

Other "extras" included full wheel trims, better interior trim, a new front grille and extra badges.

The Anglia Super lasted in production

with the basic models until the new Escort appeared in 1967.

Stephen Laing, curator, said: "We would like to thank Chris and Michael Gates for this very kind donation which guarantees the car's future and makes it available for everyone to enjoy.

"The Anglia is one of the favourite British family cars of the 1960s so I'm sure many of our visitors will connect with it. It was probably the first car I travelled in as my parents owned an Anglia when I was born!"

The British Motor Museum frequently get offered items of all shapes and sizes. However not every car offered to the museum is accepted, especially if its something similar or a duplicate. The museum has strict procedures about what it can accept to ensure the car is right for the collection and there is adequate space for it.

To find out more about the British Motor Museum visit www.britishmotormuseum.co.uk or call 01926 641188.



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2

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ADMISSION £1

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3

Home & Services

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6 Property

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MNA DIGITAL

Baggies Bomber now on board with BCB

‘BAGGIES Bomber’ Tommy Langford has joined the Black Country Boxing stable. The former British middleweight champion has signed a management contract with BCB Promotions and will work alongside trainer Tom Chaney.

Langford will step up to super middleweight as he plots a course back to boxing’s big time in 2019. BCB’s Errol Johnson said: “I’m delighted to bring Tommy to BCB. He had two absolute wars with Jason Welborn this year and showed, especially in that second fight, real heart and courage.

“He was a pleasure to deal with on both occasions and now he is stepping up in weight, we believe he can be a real force in the super middleweight division.”

“I am happy to be signing with BCB and for Errol to be working alongside Tom Chaney to plot my course back to the top,” said Langford.

“I know I can perform at championship level at super middleweight and I’m looking forward to the journey ahead.”

Women can get taste of American football

WOMEN are being urged to try their hand at American football with a series of taster sessions. Five-time British champions the Birmingham Lions are inviting females aged 17 or over to try out gridiron during at a rookie camp on the next two Saturdays, October 27 and November 3, at Avery Fields, on Sandon Road, from 9am-noon.

Created in 2014, the Lions were the first British women’s club side to take on a European club abroad when they played French side Les Sparkles. They travelled to Finland in 2017 to take on national champions Helsinki Wolverines and in April 2018, they won the inaugural Diamond Bowl, Europe’s first ever women’s international tournament.

Club captain Jo Kilby said: “American Football is an incredibly empowering sport for women. Previous experience doesn’t matter; in fact, many of our rookies last year had never played a contact sport in their lives.”

For more about the team and rookie camps, see facebook.com/BhamLionsWM), Twitter (@BhamLionsWomen) and Instagram (@bhamlionswm)

Gavin steps up title fight preparations

FRANKIE Gavin has stepped up preparation ahead of his European welterweight title clash with champion Kerman Lejerraga, travelling by boat to Bilbao for a pre-fight press conference.

Despite travelling the world as an amateur, a ‘bad flight’ led to a fear of planes for the 33 year-old, and he will again travel to the Basque country by boat during fight week.

“Everyone knows I don’t like flying,” said Gavin. “I had a bad flight and now I choose not to fly. I caught a train to Plymouth and jumped on the ferry to Santander then got picked up and brought to Bilbao.”

Gavin is wary of his opponent’s power. ‘The Revolver’, a Bilbao native, is unbeaten in 26 professional fights with 21 KOs to his name. “Kerman is a hard hitter,” he added. “He’s a tough lad and I know I’m up against it a bit. The atmosphere is intimidating but I’m prepared for that.”

For tickets, at £50, visit <https://www.fgringsidegym.co.uk/#comp-iiswdg71>



Think I'm getting the hang of this



Chris Dawson passes on a few tips to Joseph Masi

Having a ball by hitting the wall

SPORTING FEATURE

By Joseph Masi

“The aim for us is to get more people to give squash a go – because we’re confident once they do, they will take to it straight away,”

four or five courts. “You then play against each other but, often it won’t just be a game. One of the coaches will set a certain routine to help you improve your game. In a game, all you think about is winning the rally. But if you’re given a routine, you are trying to do something with the ball and it quickly helps you to improve.”

While some people may find it daunting to walk into a squash club, Dawson – who recently moved down from Lancashire – says everyone is made to feel welcome in Wolverhampton.

“I have only been here about a month but everyone has been very friendly and very welcoming,” he continued.

“And here you can go at your own pace and make the game your own. The first step is to come down and try it and you can pick it up at any age.

“There are people here in their 80s playing squash. There is also racket ball, which is slower and has a bigger ball which bounces more and gives you more time.

“The important thing to remember is the game is all about movement. If your movement is right, if you can pick up just a few small things, the game isn’t as tough as you think.

“It’s all about making it efficient for yourself.”

As well as encouraging older people to take up the sport, Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis and Squash Club also wants to see more youngsters playing the game.

The club runs coaching sessions for youngsters aged between five and 17. And Dawson is eager to get more through the door.

“As far as juniors go, on the tennis side – we’ve got quite a few, but on the squash side we’re trying to build it up,” he added. “We haven’t got that many at the moment but we’re hoping to change that.”

To book call (01902) 755265 or email club@wltsc.com

More information can also be found at www.wltsc.com

IT’S been described as the world’s healthiest sport. But while there are more squash courts in England than any other country – 8,500 in fact – the amount of people playing the game is falling.

But thousands of players recently picked up their rackets to celebrate World Squash Day.

And Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis and Squash Club is doing everything it can to encourage people to take up the sport.

The club runs with the slogan ‘Get healthy, play sport and make friends’. And coach Chris Dawson, who gave me my first squash lesson, believes the game is perfect for anyone looking to improve their health and fitness.

“The aim for us is to get more people to give squash a go – because we’re confident once they do, they will take to it straight away,” he said.

“It’s a great game for fitness and I’d encourage anyone of an age to get involved because there are so many different sides to the game.

Different

“There are a few simple rules. But there are so many different shots you can play.

“You can play with power and hit the ball hard and fast. But it’s very easy to slow that down. Everyone can find their niche. It’s all about controlling the ball, concentrating all the time and being one step ahead.

“It’s like a game of chess, everyone has a weakness – it’s about finding that.”

With more than 1,000 members, Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis and Squash Club has a variety of ways people can get into the sport. Courts can be hired between friends, one-on-one lessons are available and there are also leagues for people looking for a competitive edge.

But it is the club’s ‘mixer’ sessions that are ideal for newcomers, with players able to go up against different people while learning new skills.

“The great thing here is that there is always somebody who wants a game,” Dawson continued. “We have over 1,000 members and there is something for everybody.

“You can book a court, have individual lessons and there are also internal leagues.

“Our mixer sessions are also popular and take place on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and everybody is welcome. We normally have a group of around eight people turn up so we open

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Spectacular goal denies Yeltz victory

Halesowen Town 1 Needham Market 1
HALESOWEN had to be content with a draw after a second-half goal from Lee Hughes was cancelled out by a wonder strike from Needham Market's Reece Dobson.

Manager John Hill was left with mixed feelings. "After taking a deserved lead, we had a great chance to make it 2-0 and wrap up the game. But, despite being disappointed not to take all three points, it's important to remember that we still remain unbeaten at home in the league."

Home captain Danny Bragoli's low shot was collected by visiting goalkeeper Jake Jessup after five minutes but the visitors soon settled and young home goalkeeper Cameron Gregory saved Gareth Heath's low shot after Luke Ingram flicked on with a 13th minute header.

Needham playmaker Heath went close with a clever back flick at the start of the second half and the same player's long free-kick was pushed away by Gregory.

Hughes gave Halesowen the lead in the 55th minute with a calm, controlled finish in front of a crowded goal from substitute Tobias Hayles-Docherty's right wing cross. The hosts had their chances to secure the win when Jessup saved with his legs from James Roberts, who also fired over in the 69th minute.

Yeltz paid the price as the Marketmen spectacularly equalised in the 76th minute, substitute Dobson flicking the ball up and volleying home from eight yards.

Halesowen are in FA Trophy first qualifying round action as they travel to Grantham on Saturday.

Blizzard storms to fast course finish in Great South Run

IT was another busy weekend for Dudley and Stourbridge Harriers. The youngsters kicked off with Luke Bailey, Cian Wood, and Rhys Lees travelling to Sutton Park for the West Midlands Cross Country trials at Sutton Park, representing Dudley.

Bailey finished fourth and will represent the West Midlands at Winsford in Cheshire on December 8. Lees and Wood were unlucky and narrowly missed out of the top 15, finishing 17th and 18th in a fast race with top quality opposition.

The senior men put two teams out at Aldersley Stadium in the Cross Country Relays. On Sunday Simon Blizzard travelled to Portsmouth for the Great South Run of 10 miles mainly along the coastline. Blizzard was not far off a course PB, finishing in 1:06:45.

Shaun Osborne, Tom Isherwood and Lorna Hulme took on Stroud Half Marathon on a relatively flat course. Osborne set a new distance PB with a 14th place finish in 01:16:06. Isherwood pulled up early on with an injury but still managed to finish in 01:30:16. Hulme crossed the line as 25th female in a time of 01:37:40.

Glassboys cup run comes to an end

Guiseley 3 Stourbridge 1

FA CUP giantkillers Stourbridge bowed out of this season's competition at the final qualification hurdle after suffering defeat in West Yorkshire.

Having already removed National League North sides Leamington and Kidderminster Harriers from this season's Cup, the Glassboys found Guiseley a step too far.

Stourbridge fell behind on 19 minutes when central defender Will Thornton was left unmarked from an Alex Purver free-kick to head home beyond the reach of goalkeeper James

Wren. Stourbridge hit back to level four minutes later as Stuart Pierpoint flicked Jordaan Brown's cross towards striker Luke Benbow who, with his back to goal, unleashed an acrobatic overhead kick that flew into the net, leaving Guiseley goalie Joe Green rooted to the spot.

An absorbing contest followed with little to choose between both sides but the tie was ultimately decided on a mistake.

Stourbridge central defender Paul McCone allowed a long range punt upfield from Green to bounce in front of him, enabling former Barns-

ley favourite Kayode Odejayi to get goal-side and square the ball across the face of goal for substitute Lewis Walters to slot home after 76 minutes.

Before Stourbridge could recompose themselves, Guiseley grabbed a third goal four minutes later.

One-time York City player Kaine Felix was allowed to surge through the middle of the park, shaking off two defenders in the process, before firing past Wren.

Glassboys visit Kettering on Saturday in the first qualifying round of the FA Trophy.

DK GETTING BACK TO BEST

DK 87 Longton 12

DK turned in a display that showed they are getting back to their best.

For the second weekend running the team showed a marked improvement in their execution of the game plan.

Longton were the opposition that had to endure the flowing DK brand of attacking rugby.

The first significant break came from left wing Tommy Walker who made yardage on his flank after he stepped his man on the inside.

Moments later Walker fielded a Longton cross kick before it reached touch. He then timed the pass to Nic Adams, who crossed to give DK an early 5-0 lead.

A Pete Griffiths try followed, converted by Sam Vaughan. A converted try reduced the arrears.

Matt Squires' try was converted by Vaughan and Joe Dunn added to the scoreline, so DK had a bonus point 31-7 lead at the break.

Secured

The fifth try came from Walker, converted by Vaughan, then Adams scored his second, and again Vaughan added the extras, repeating the feat once more from a try from Jordan Brookes.

Scrum half Dunn secured his second, Vaughan again kicking the extras. He added two more to a Stef Shillingford try and again to a James Jefferson touchdown.

Brookes crossed the line for his second, with Vaughan again on the mark and Jefferson completed his brace, allowing Vaughan to add to his tally.

Minutes later, Matt Perks drew his man and put Jefferson away for his jug try, with the extras from Vaughan manking it 87-7.

Longton finished the scoring with a try to complete the scoring at 87-12. While the scoreboard tells one story, Longton thoroughly deserved their final try and they competed through the game, and did not let the shirt down.

It's Malvern away for DK this week.

Stourbridge beat South Leicester by a score of 54-45.



Joe Dunn evades the outstretched arms to score one of his two tries for DK

Riders end season on a high

BRIERLEY Hill-born Michael Rutter and his Black Country-based Bathams Racing team ended the 2018 National Superstock 1000 championship superbly at Brands Hatch as his team-mate Taylor Mackenzie claimed a brilliant win.

Rutter, who will also be back racing on the roads for the

Macau GP in November, was able to join him on the podium after finishing third, despite missing the last two rounds.

Both riders started the 14-lap race well at the Kent track with Mackenzie grabbing an early lead and Rutter close behind in fourth. With the entire 2.43-mile Grand Prix circuit extremely

slippy, the duo had dropped back to fifth and sixth respectively by half race distance but on lap 10, 2016 champion Mackenzie – whose mother hails from Coseley – retook the lead with Rutter claiming third.

The results meant Mackenzie ended the campaign seventh in the table with Rutter 13th.

Heartbreak as Sykes is forced out

STOURBRIDGE'S Richard Sykes suffered heartbreak on the Wales Rally GB event when he was forced to retire whilst heading for a top five position.

It was Sykes' second race driving the Mitsubishi Evo 9. Following a bad start to the year with three mechanical retirements in his Citroen DS3 Sykes opted to buy the four-wheel drive machine. But its engine blew up on its first event.

"We entered the Wales Rally GB event and had high hopes of a good finish with a new car and another new engine," said Sykes. "We were seeded quite low which meant we caught the car in front on the first stage even though it was only five miles long."

"Despite this we were fourth overall and only 0.6 seconds behind the new Hyundai R5 of John Wink."

The second stage was 18 miles and Sykes had targeted this as one to push very hard on to get up the leaderboard. However, it didn't go to plan.

"Once again we caught the car in front after less than five miles. He saw us and pulled over but then we caught another car and were stuck behind him for eight miles. We lost around 90 seconds."

"I was very angry at the situation and wasn't in the best frame of mind for the next stage. I set off like a bull in a china shop and I put the car off the road on a very slippery corner. The screen was damaged and we couldn't get a replacement which meant we were out."

Sykes has entered the Grizedale Stages on December 8.

Ball's aiming to be in seventh heaven

DANNY Ball hopes to be in seventh heaven as he steps into the ring at Walsall Town Hall this weekend.

It will be the 22-year-old Kingswinford fighter's seventh outing since turning professional last summer. The former white collar star takes on ever-green Kevin McCauley on Saturday on BCB Promotions' Halloween show called 'Things That Go Bump in the Night.'

Also on the bill are English bantamweight champion Kyle Williams, Central Area heavyweight champion Kash Ali, Tividale's Ryan 'Stewart' Davies, Burntwood's Troi Coleman and Ball's gymmate Connor Lee Jones.

★ ★ ★

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massive range of furniture, carpets,
beds and homewares.

Exciting new developments, plus significant investment and restructuring mean that Cousins Furniture need to clear millions of pounds worth of stock from their warehouses and showrooms with immediate effect.

For 3 Days, this Friday, Saturday & Sunday

COUSINS have been closed all week, because staff have been working around the clock handling vast quantities of incoming stock from their suppliers & warehouses, including the leading brands.

Consignments will continue to arrive daily and all price tickets have been reduced to a fraction of the normal price for this Massive Clearance Event.

FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITIES

After a long hot Summer and a year of Brexit uncertainty, it's been well documented that High Street sales are suffering.

As a result, many of Cousins' suppliers, including the leading brands, are simply overstocked.

This has allowed Cousins to bulk purchase enormous volumes of stock and negotiate fantastic short-term discounts from many of their suppliers. They're now able to offer the buying public a phenomenal opportunity to purchase quality furniture at unbelievable discounted prices.

Coupled with the unknown impact of the impending Brexit deal or no deal and whether this will lead to unprecedented price increases on the High Street, there's never been a better time to buy.

These tremendous deals apply to both stock and special orders.

FANTASTIC STOCK DEALS

Furthermore, as a member of the prestigious "Associated Independent Stores" Buying Group, Cousins have used their combined purchasing power to obtain some fantastic stock deals on accessories, homewares and carpets.

LEADING BRANDS

In store, Cousins are continuing to enhance the overall customer experience with the introduction of new Brand Galleries, including market leading upholstery manufacturers Collins and Hayes.

"Our customers are investing in both quality and brand assurance. People are becoming more adventurous in the styles that they're purchasing" said John Shotton, Managing Director.

EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS

With this in mind, Cousins will be introducing many new Collections for 2019, including an on-trend Urban Living department plus a comprehensive Ergo Comfort Gallery.

Based on public demand, they've worked closely with some innovative designers to develop ranges of furniture that will offer unprecedented comfort and support, including adjustable lumbar supports and headrests, plus the use of pressure relieving memory foam.

Urban Living has evolved from today's Instagram driven society, with the need

to make a bold interior statement using designer styling, pops of colour plus that cutting-edge accessory.

Whether it's Scandi chic, mid-century modernity or retro deep-buttoning Cousins will have it.

CONTINUED SUCCESS & EXPANSION

Cousins are also further extending their unique "Bespoke Upholstery" departments, which enable consumers to solve any seating dilemma they may have.

Whether it's design, dimensions, comfort levels or fabric covering, a customer can design a sofa, chair or corner group to exactly match their needs.

This is a service that isn't generally available on the High Street and certainly meets a significant demand.

WAREHOUSE RESTRUCTURING

Both online and offline, Cousins' will be continuing to improve the shopping experience.

The recent opening of a new fully responsive website, has resulted in a significant uplift in sales, together with increased consumer demand for immediate delivery, meaning that they need much more storage capacity in their warehouses.

So, a comprehensive restructuring programme of both their facilities and systems is about to commence.

STOCK ARRIVING DAILY – EVERYTHING MUST GO

This tremendous pressure for space, with the need to clear stock from suppliers and their warehouses plus the need to create space in-store mean that consignments will continue to arrive daily, and be marked down to prices for immediate Clearance and delivery.

"We need to clear this stock as soon as possible with everything available for immediate delivery. It really is a case of everything must go" said John Shotton.

"We are delighted to offer our customers more choice than ever before.

These are some of the biggest saving

we have ever offered and expect people to take full advantage".

MADE TO ORDER

Cousins have even dramatically reduced all made to order items, so you can choose exactly what size or colours suit your home. Their expert team of sales people will be on hand to ensure you make the right decision at the best price.

"We are expecting this to be our busiest event of the year from the minute the doors open. With many one-off bargains and unrepeatable deals it really will be a case of first come first served" said John Shotton, Managing Director.



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